

MEETING AGENDA

Androscoggin County Commissioners
 2nd Floor Conference Room
 May 19, 2021 - 5:15 p.m.



This meeting is open to the public for in-person attendance.
 Zoom directions are provided at: androscoggincountymaine.gov

- I. **Call Meeting to Order** Time:
- II. **Pledge of Allegiance**
- III. **Roll Call** Commissioners Absent: _____
- IV. **Accept and Approve with a Waiver of Reading the Minutes**

A*	Meeting Dates: April 21 and May 5, 2021	
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V. **Review and Approval of all Warrants**

A*	Warrants: Manual Warrants, Payroll, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2135.	
B*	Corrections: Manual Warrants-J, 2136J, 2137J.	

VI. **Reports** **Notes:**

A	Maine County Commissioners Association M.C.C.A.	
B	Central/Western Maine Workforce Board	
C	Treasurer's Report	
D	Administrator's Report	

VII. **Comments from the Public**

A		
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VIII. **New Business** **Notes:**

A	Commissioner Meeting Protocol	
B	Geographic Name Recommendation	
C	Health Freedom Policy (Commissioner Lary)	

IX. **Discussion Items (Commissioners Only)**

A		
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X. **Future Agenda Items (Commissioners Only)**

A		
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XI. **Adjourn** Time:

Action Required

Next Commissioners' Meeting: June 2, 2021 at 5:15 p.m. in 2nd Floor Conference Room

Commissioner Meeting Protocol

As gatherings and capacity are again being expanded, the question is whether to discontinue the zoom component and return to in-person meetings.

From: O'Donnell, Matthew (Contractor) J
To: lpost@androscoggincountymaine.gov
Cc: tkelly@androscoggincountymaine.gov
Subject: request for Androscoggin County's recommendation about a proposal to name a stream in the City of Auburn
Date: Wednesday, April 14, 2021 11:31:14 AM
Attachments: [Talking Brook proposal packet.pdf](#)
[Androscoggin County--Talking Brook recommendation form.doc](#)

Larry Post, County Administrator
Androscoggin County

lpost@androscoggincountymaine.gov

Issue: request for the Androscoggin County Commissioners' recommendation about naming a tributary of Meadow Brook in New Gloucester and Auburn as **Talking Brook**

Dear Mr. Post:

The [U.S. Board on Geographic Names](#) (BGN) is responsible by law for standardizing geographic names for use by the Federal Government. The BGN accepts proposals affecting the official names of geographic features as long as those proposals meet the BGN's [Principles and Policies](#). A proposal may be to apply a new name to a currently unnamed geographic feature, or to change an existing name, spelling, or location.

Please note that the BGN is not part of the U.S. Geological Survey; the USGS is just one of many member agencies that have a vote on the BGN. Also, the BGN is reactive; it does not initiate these proposals except in rare cases of obvious map labeling errors.

Because the BGN places importance on local opinion when it votes on any proposal, staff asks for recommendations from local governments who have been elected to represent their citizens and other entities that might have an interest in the proposal. The BGN has no requirement on how a local government develops its recommendation, as long as it is provided to the BGN by the elected leaders or an office designated to speak for them. The BGN does not have the resources to contact every landowner that may be impacted by the proposal.

The Royal River Conservation Trust (RRCT) submitted the proposal on behalf of the owner of the land that borders the stream within the Town of New Gloucester. I believe that Adam Pereira with the RRCT plans to present the proposal to the New Gloucester Selectmen next month. The name Talking Brook refers to the sound of the stream. The stream begins in the City of Auburn in Androscoggin County and flows into Meadow Brook in the Town of New

Gloucester in Cumberland County. Please see the attached proposal packet for more information.

To make an informed decision on the proposal, the BGN would like to know if your office supports or opposes this proposal and if there is opposition, the reason for your decision. We will also ask for a recommendation from the Town of New Gloucester, the City of Auburn, Cumberland County, and the Maine State Names Authority. Federally recognized Tribes will also have an opportunity to provide comments.

This proposal is listed on the BGN's Quarterly Review List 443, which is posted at https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/f?p=geonames_web:review_lists. Attached is a pdf including the case summary, original proposal, and a map. To facilitate a response from your office, a recommendation form is also attached.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and we look forward to hearing from you. Meanwhile, if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us. We may be contacted by e-mail at BGNEXEC@usgs.gov or mjodonnell@contractor.usgs.gov, or by telephone at (703) 648-4553.

Sincerely,

Matt O'Donnell, research assistant
For Jennifer Runyon, research staff
U.S. Board on Geographic Names
12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, MS-523
Reston, VA 20192

cc:

The Honorable Terri Kelly, District 6 Commissioner, tkelly@androscoggincountymaine.gov

Matt O'Donnell | Xcellent Technology Solutions, Inc.
Contract employee in support of U.S. Board on Geographic Names | Domestic Names
Committee
Phone: 703-648-4553
Email: mjodonnell@contractor.usgs.gov
Room 2B101
(working remotely until further notice)



U.S. BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES

GEOGRAPHIC NAME PROPOSAL RECOMMENDATION

Proposed name: Talking Brook

Current official Federal name of feature: unnamed

This is to notify the U.S. Board on Geographic Names that the:

Androscoggin County Commissioners
(Name of government entity, organization, or individual)

recommend that the U. S. Board on Geographic Names:

Approve the Proposed Name

Reject the Proposed Name

Other: _____

Comments (the following factors contributed to this recommendation; attach supporting documentation if appropriate):

(Name)

(Title)

(Address)

(Telephone)

(City, State, ZIP Code)

(E-mail)

(Signature)

(Date)

Return to: U.S. Board on Geographic Names
BGNEEXEC@usgs.gov
Telephone: (703) 648-4552
12201 Sunrise Valley Drive
Mailstop 523
Reston VA 20192-0523

Approved

Promulgation authorized
Executive Secretary
Domestic Geographic Names

UNITED STATES
BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES

CASE BRIEF (Domestic)

Talking Brook: stream; 2.2 mi. long; heads in the City of Auburn at 44°00'06"N, 70°14'54"W, flows generally S into the Town of New Gloucester to enter Meadow Brook; named for the sound of the stream as it flows over rocks; Cumberland County and Androscoggin County, Maine; 43°58'31"N, 70°14'24"W; USGS map – North Pownal 1:24,000 (mouth).

Mouth: https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=43.97521&p_longi=-70.24009

Source: https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=44.0017&p_longi=-70.24825

Proposal: to make official a name in recent local use

Map: USGS North Pownal 1:24,000 (mouth)

Proponent: Michael Fralich; New Gloucester, ME

Administrative area: None

Previous BGN Action: None

Names associated with feature:

GNIS: No record

Local Usage: Talking Brook (landowner, since the 1970s)

Published: None found

Case Summary: This proposal is to make official the name Talking Brook for a 2.2.-mile-long unnamed tributary of Meadow Brook. The stream begins in the City of Auburn in Androscoggin County and flows into Meadow Brook in the Town of New Gloucester in Cumberland County.

The proposal was submitted by the Royal River Conservation Trust (RRCT) on behalf of the owner of the land that borders the stream within the Town of New Gloucester. The proponent's family recently allowed public access to their land along the stream adjacent to a parcel recently donated to the RRCT.

The proponent states that the name refers to the sound of the stream. While camping on the land before building a house, he recalls "I could hear someone laughing and talking during the night only to realize that it was only the brook babbling as it played over its rocky bed. It was then that we gave the stream the name Talking Brook." He comments that the name "reminds us that our stewardship of these woods is our legacy that will carry on long after we are gone and the voice of the brook falls on other ears." He also added, "If there is a traditional Native stream name that we are not aware of, we would like to defer to the Native name."

Proposed by: Michael Fralich; New Gloucester, ME

Submitted by: Adam Pereira; Yarmouth, ME

Prepared by: M. O'Donnell

Case ID: 5508

Reviewed by: J.Runyon

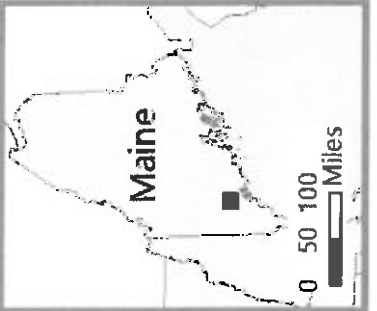
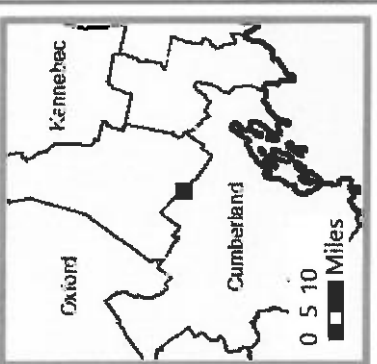
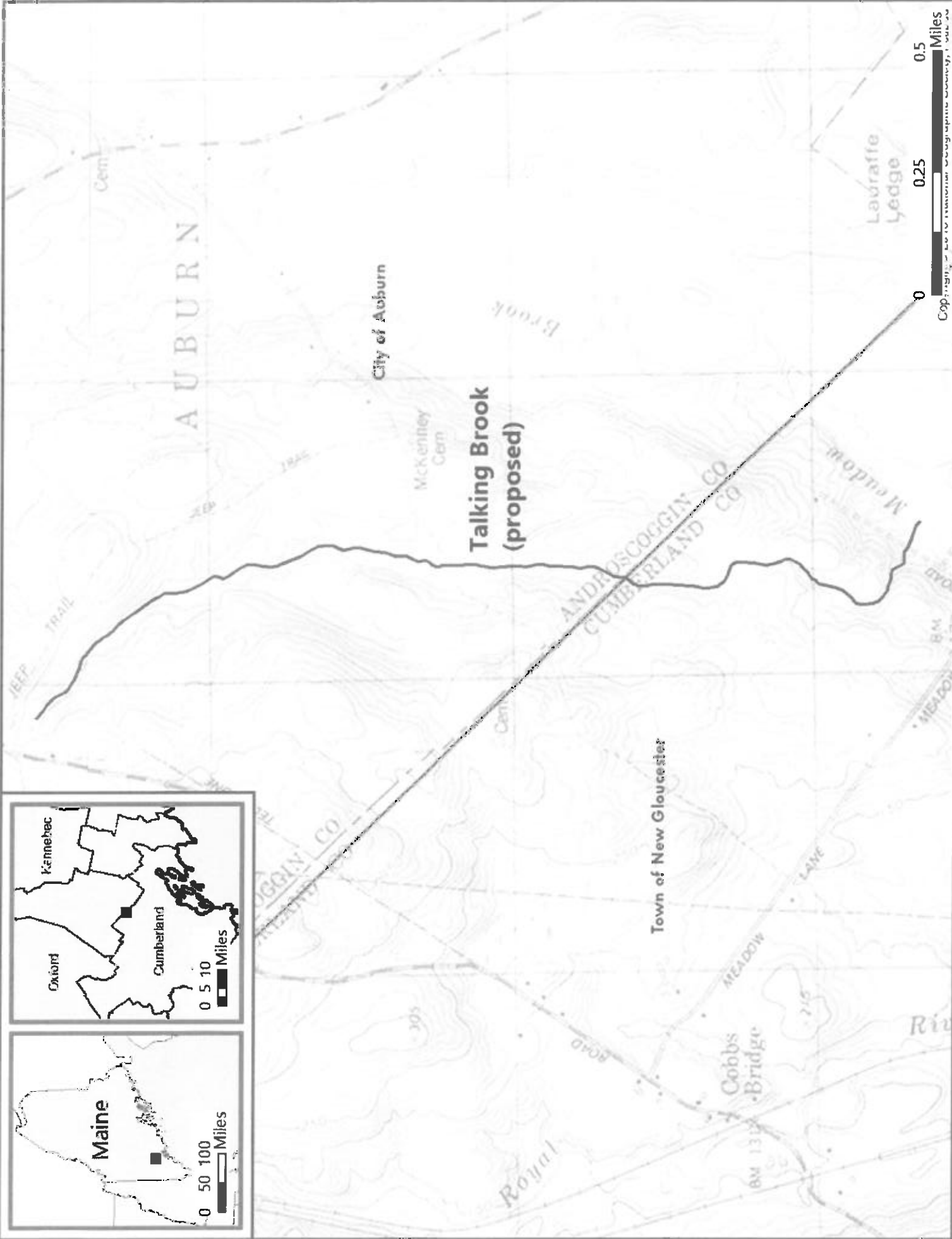
Date: 1/18/21

Date: same

Date: 2/10/21

Quarterly Review List: 433

Date: 3/15/21



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DOMESTIC GEOGRAPHIC NAME PROPOSAL SUMMARY**PROPOSE NEW OR CHANGE NAME**

Name Proposal ID:
10043

Date Created:
15-DEC-20

Date Submitted:
18-JAN-21

Proposed Name:
Talking Brook

Action Requested:
Name an unnamed feature

Existing Name:
-

Unnamed Evidence:
-

Locally Used:
No

Locally Used Years:
-

Local Conflict:
No

Local Conflict Detail:
-

Additional Details:

The Royal River Conservation Trust (RRCT) is a land trust that was founded in 1988 and has worked to conserve over 4500 acres of land in the Royal River watershed. The Fralich family donated a 40-acre parcel to RRCT in December 2018 along the town of New Gloucester and Auburn city line. The Fralich's still hold land adjacent to the 40-acre RRCT Preserve (Big Falls Preserve). On their land adjacent to the Preserve, an unnamed stream flows through their property and into Meadow Brook. This unnamed stream has held significance to the Fralich family for 46 years. Now, the public can also access this stream because of the Fralich family's generosity in allowing public access onto their private land with a loop trail that lets visitors explore the reaches of the unnamed stream. RRCT and the Fralich family would like to formally name this stream "Talking Brook." To our knowledge a native name for the stream does not exist. However, if it does, we would like the stream's name to reflect the historic native name.

FEATURE INFORMATION

GNIS Feature ID:
-

Feature class:
STREAM

Descriptive Information:
The unnamed stream flows into Meadow Brook which then flows into the Royal River. The Royal River feeds Casco Bay in Maine.

Meaning or significance:

This unnamed stream runs through the Fralich family property. The Fralich's have owned this land for 46 years and dearly treasure the stream. Their proposed name, Talking Brock, encapsulates a wealth of experiences that they would like to share with current and future generations. Please see the supplemental attachment for more information about their story and desire to name the stream Talking Brook.

Commemorative:

No

Biographical information:

-

Supporting materials:

Yes

SUPPORTING MATERIALS

Filename	Comments
Talking Brock - Michael Fralich Essay.docx	-

STATES AND COUNTIES

State Name	County Name
Maine	Cumberland
Maine	Androscoggin

GEOGRAPHIC COORDINATES

Obtained From	Describe Other	Lat Deg	Min	Sec	Long Deg	Min	Sec	Decimal Lat	Decimal Long	Details
Other	Google Maps	-	-	-	-	-	-	43.960876	-70.260391	This location is where the unnamed stream, proposed as Talking Brook, converges with Meadow Brook.

ADMINISTRATIVE AREAS

Administrative Area Type	Administrative Area Name	Details
Town	-	Town of New Gloucester
City	-	Auburn

MAPS AND DOCUMENTS WITH NAME

No information entered.

OTHER (VARIANT) NAMES AND THEIR SOURCE

No information entered.

AUTHORITIES

Last Name	First Name	Phone	Email Address	Physical Address	City	State	Zip	Occupation	Years
Fox-Howard	Brenda	2079264136	townmanager@newgloucester.com	385 Intervale Road	New Gloucester	Maine	04260	Town Manager	-

SUBMITTERS AND PREPARERS

Role	Last Name	First Name	Phone	Email Address	Physical Address	City	State	Zip	Company	Title
PREPARER	Pereira	Adam	7033003478	adam@conservationcoherence.com	-	-	-	-	Royal River Conservation Trust	Consultant
BOTH	Stearns	Alan	2072158315	Alan@RRCT.org	-	-	-	-	Royal River Conservation Trust	Executive Director
SUBMITTER	Fralich	Michael	2076536151	michael.fralich@gmail.com	-	-	-	-	-	-

DGNP Guest

Talking Brook
Michael Fralich
New Gloucester
Maine

In 1974, when I was twenty-three years old and recently married, I came to look at a piece of property in a town I knew very little about. My new wife and I both grew up in Maine outside of Portland. We wanted to settle near our families and begin a family of our own. Two local men, Donald Chandler and MS Hancock, had a large parcel in New Gloucester on the corner of Woodman Road and Meadow Lane for sale. The parcel was one hundred and sixty acres of mixed woodlands with an unnamed stream running through it. We purchased the land and not yet ready to begin our residency, pitched a small canvas dwelling next to the stream.

I had been an outdoors-man all my life and this simple dwelling situated in a hemlock grove next to a stream suited me perfectly. We were living in Boston at the time and once the canvas dwelling was up and provisioned, we would come to New Gloucester to stay, sometimes for a weekend, sometimes for longer. We began to explore the woods and envision living there. After our rambles, we were always comforted by the sight of our dwelling tucked under an ancient yellow birch next to the stream. As we lay in our sleeping bags at night, I would swear that I could hear someone laughing and talking during the night only to realize that it was only the brook babbling as it played over its rocky bed. It was then that we gave the stream the name Talking Brook.

In the forty-six years since that humble beginning, we have built a home here, raised our family, created seven miles of trails on the land we now call Norumbega as a nod to the history of our state and the first peoples who were here long before us. Talking Brook has been the constant feature that has always not only brought us comfort with its varying voice but also a constant reminder with those voices that we are connected here to something elemental to our existence, a flowing energy that although slowed by the dry season, never stops in its need to bring water out of these woods and eventually to the sea.

When our children were young, we would go to the brook and bob around in the big pool below one of the big drops, sharing the water with the creatures who lived there. Later on, I would wander up the stream bed and pick up rocks and build cairns that would be washed away in the spring flows. During the spring flows, we can hear the rushing voice of the brook from our bedroom, reminding us of the that time long ago when we were young and just beginning our journey here. The brook is that constant that always brings us back to where we began and reminds us that our stewardship of these woods is our legacy that will carry on long after we are gone and the voice of the brook falls on other ears.

If there is a traditional Native stream name that we are not aware of, we would like to defer to the Native name.

Thank you for your consideration,
Michael

HEALTH FREEDOM POLICY

It is the policy of the County of Androscoggin, Maine, to not incentivize, require, coerce, or force any medical interventions for inmates, staff, elected or appointed officials, or the public. "Medical interventions" include but are not limited to screening tests, evaluations, treatments, chips, drugs, devices, surgeries, vaccinations, or injections.

We reject the requirement of:

1. Any medical intervention, and/or
 2. Proof of and/or possession of medical intervention and/or vaccine/injection passports, cards, apps, records, or other similar mechanisms,
- as a condition for entry, residence, participation, business with, observing of, or involvement in any County affair.

Androscoggin County will not require or use passive proof such as any individual being able to be found and/or verified as listed on a government, private, Non-Governmental Organization (NGO), or non-profit record as having received any medical intervention.

Androscoggin County will take all necessary actions to ensure that this policy will be carried out to protect personal freedoms and prohibit the use of constructs to circumvent this policy including but not limited to the use of outside vendors, services, venues etc. that would cause a contradiction of this policy.

Exceptions to this policy are limited to the current use of Tuberculosis testing for inmates; emergency overdose treatments such as Narcan; operating under the influence testing by law enforcement; and physicals, psychological evaluations, drug/alcohol screening for employees when required by the position.

Signed this _____ Day of _____, 2021.

Brian Ames

Sally Christner

Terri Kelly

Isaiah Lary

Noel Madore

John Michael

Roy Poirier