

**Christine Joyce**

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7120 (3)

**From:** Bettina Abe  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 08, 2012 10:54 AM  
**To:** Christine Joyce  
**Subject:** Mary's Brook Proposal for BOS  
**Attachments:** Mary's Brook.ppt; Mary's Brook Memo to BOS.docx

Dear Christine,  
Attached is a memo to the BOS (sponsored by Janet K. Adachi)  
And a copy of a power point presentation I would make at the BOS meeting whenever you could schedule it.  
Thank you for your kind attention to this matter.  
Sincerely,

**Bettina Abe**



Natural Resources Assistant (Part-Time)  
Town of Acton Natural Resources Department  
472 Main Street  
Acton, MA 01720

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Website: [www.acton-ma.gov](http://www.acton-ma.gov)

**Date:** May 8, 2011  
**To:** The Acton Board of Selectmen  
**From:** Bettina Abe, Acton Natural Resources Asst. and Board Member, Friends of the Acton Arboretum, Inc., Citizen and Friend.  
**Re:** Mary's Brook

A group comprised of Acton Town Staff members, citizens, family members and the Friends of the Acton Arboretum, Inc. would like to name and dedicate a local stream in memory of Mary S. Michelman. We seek the approval of the Board of Selectmen to make the name legal and permanent in all Town records, and to install three signs identifying the newly named stream.

Mary was a respected and beloved member of our community who was best known for her unflagging dedication to assuring a clean, public water supply. Among her many accomplishments Mary created the Acton Stream Team to raise awareness of and respect for the Town's public waterways.

Although Acton has many named brooks and streams, we have identified one that remains unnamed as far as we have been able to discern after consulting Acton Historical Society members, Town records and maps.

We therefore propose to name this little brook that gurgles along, under a lovely wooded bridge, through a fern collection in the Acton Arboretum,

**"Mary's Brook."**

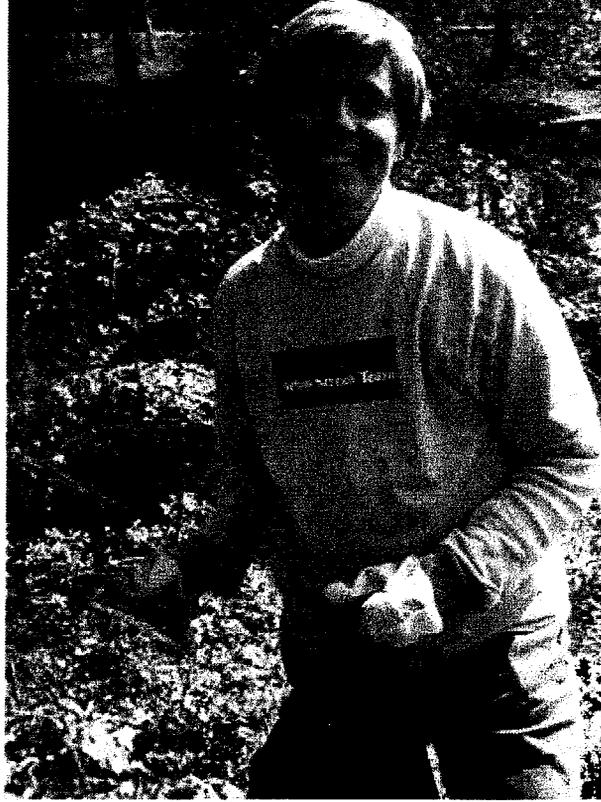
We would like to post three signs in Acton designating this stream. One would be a small, discreet, natural-looking sign probably mounted on the wooden boardwalk that spans the brook in the Arboretum. Two other signs, to be metal and similar in design to the Acton Stream Team signs placed at streams throughout the Town would be located on either side of the road where the stream flows under Minot Avenue. The signs would be visible to passing traffic and their placement would accord with Engineering and Highway Department requirements.

We would obtain the necessary permission from the Conservation Commission. The Highway Department or the Natural Resources Department would install the signs. All official maps for the Town of Acton would be updated to reflect the new stream name, including maps in the GIS system, and Engineering and Highway Departments.

We hope that the Selectmen will support our proposal to honor Mary, and respectfully request the Board's approval.

For your information, the U.S. Board on Geographic Names is responsible by law for approving new names to be applied to *Federal maps and products*. Qualifying honorees must have been deceased at least five years; so the U.S. Board on Geographic Names cannot consider our proposal until after December 2015. However, a local authority may show the name on a local map or signs. It would in fact make for a stronger case when the U.S. Board considers it, if local usage of the name becomes established.

Thank you.



# **“Mary’s Brook”**

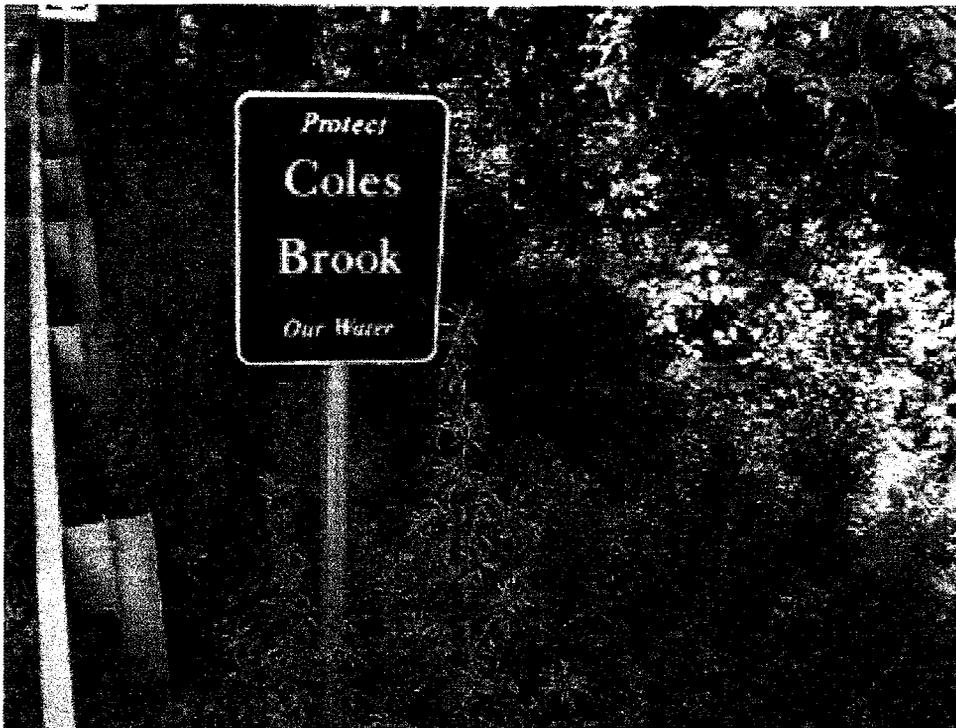
**A Proposal for Dedication  
and (Locally) Official Naming**



# Acton Stream Team and Stream Awareness Project

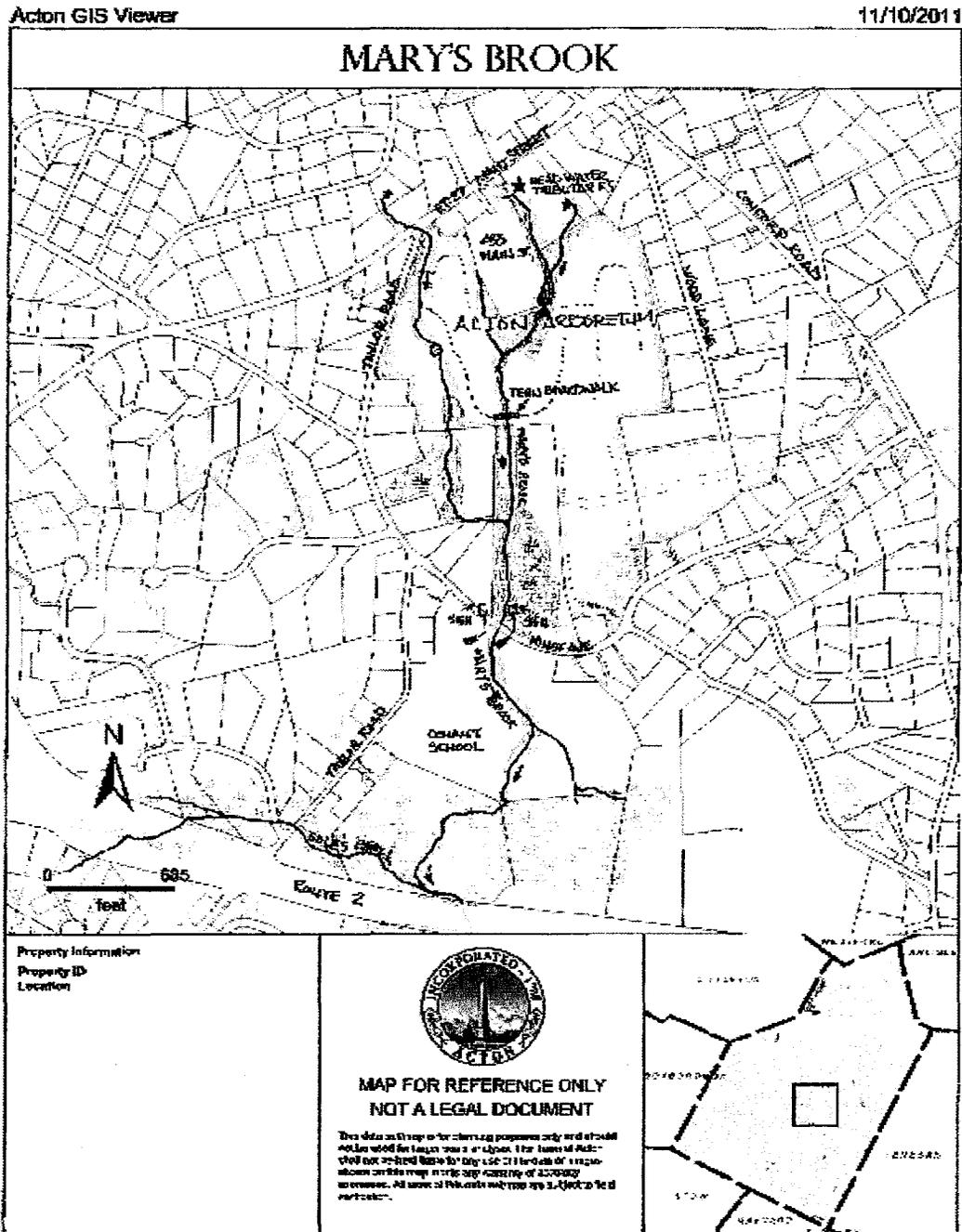
**Coles Brook @ Taylor Rd.  
Stream Awareness**

**Acton Stream Teams**



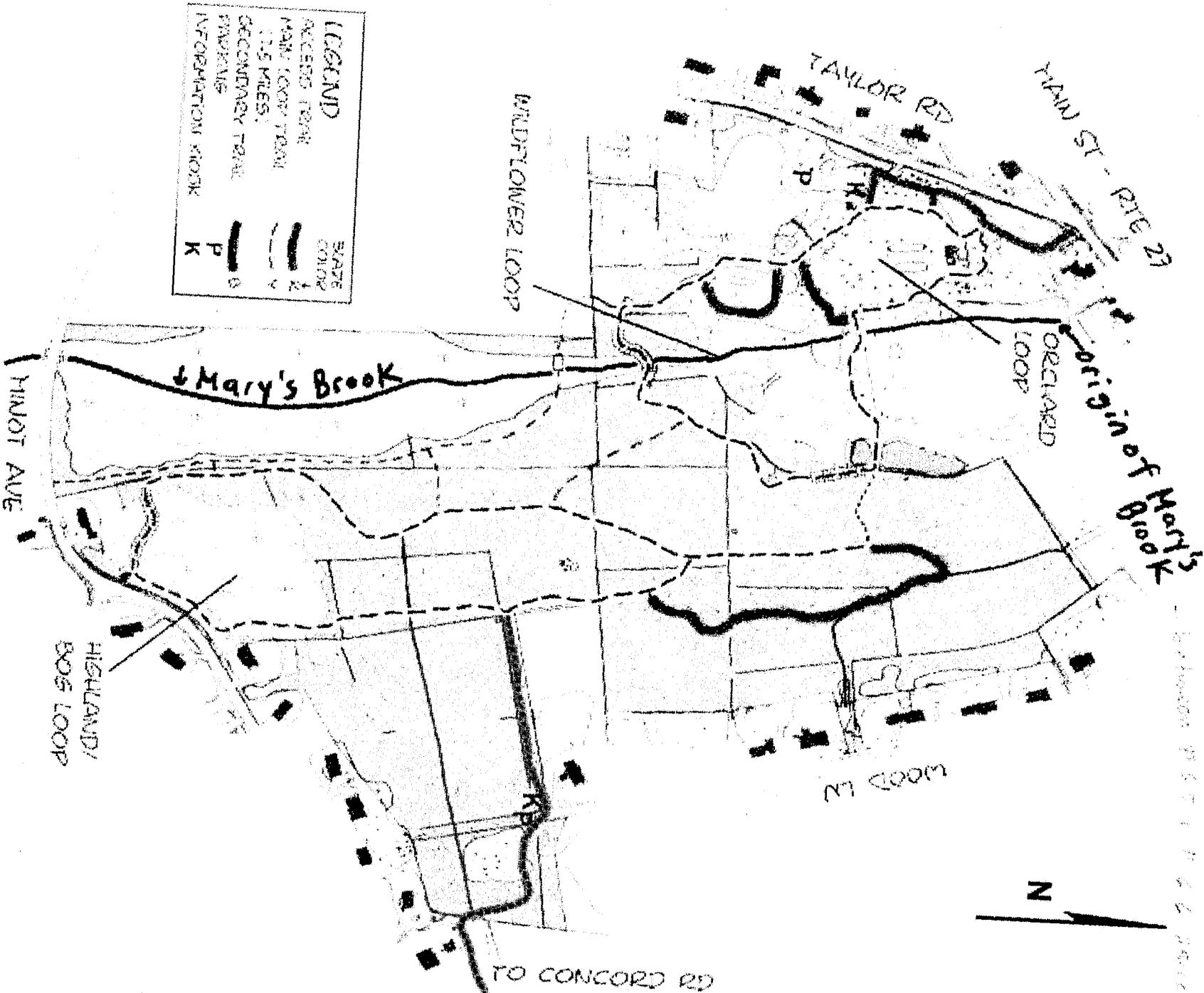


“Mary’s Brook” begins near Main Street, flows through the Arboretum, joins Conant Brook and flows under Route 2.



# ACTON ARBORETUM

Revised 1987 by P. G. & J. G. ...



# “Mary’s Brook” flows under Acton Arboretum Fern Boardwalk.



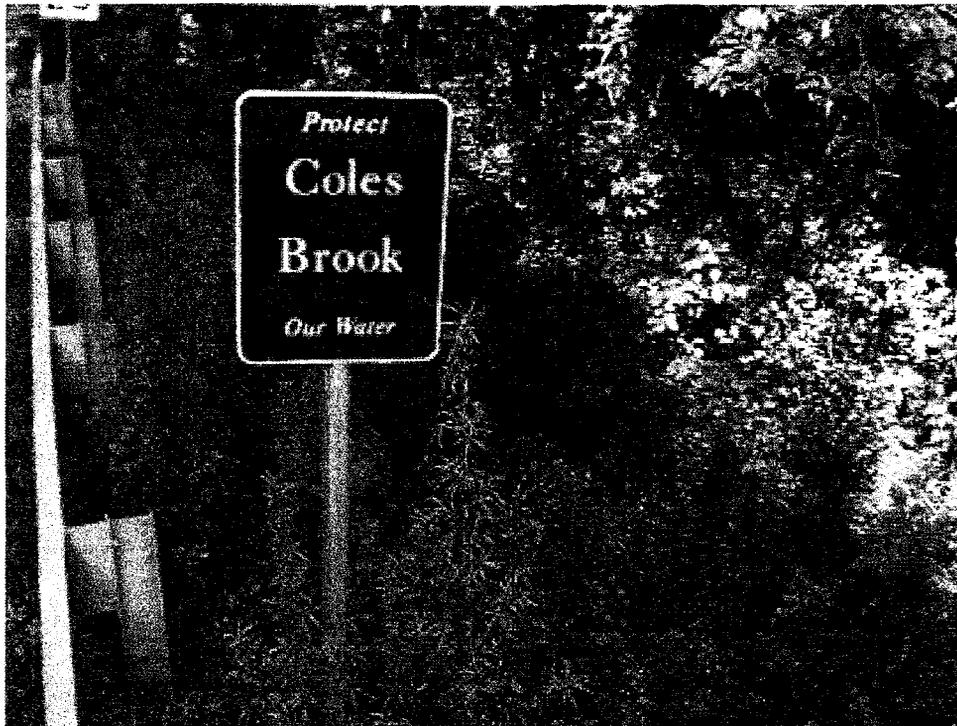
“Mary’s Brook “  
bronze plaque  
would be affixed to the wooden  
handrail of the boardwalk in the  
Arboretum under which flows  
“Mary’s Brook.”



Street sign would look similar in design to this one.

**Coles Brook @ Taylor Rd.  
Stream Awareness**

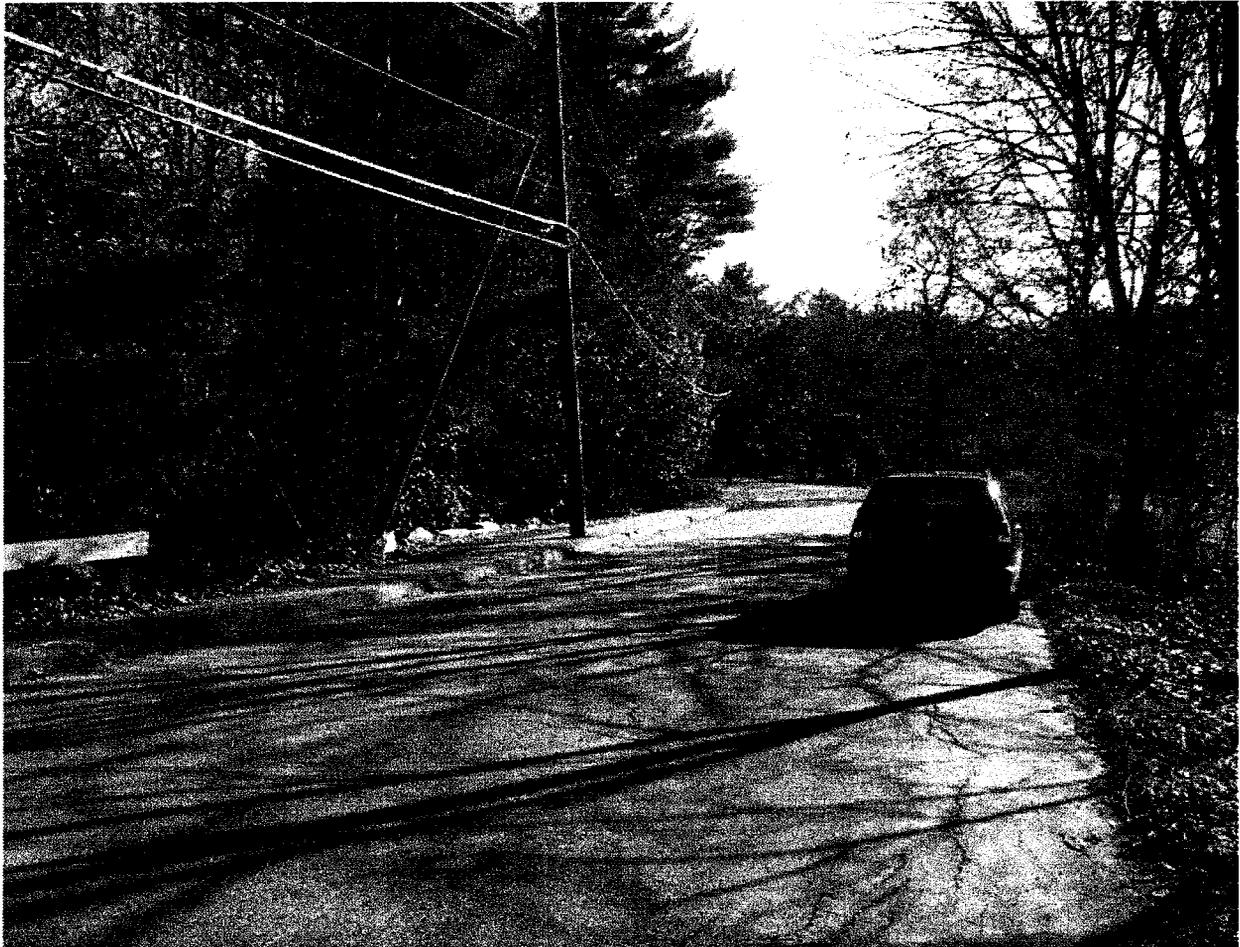
**Acton Stream Teams**





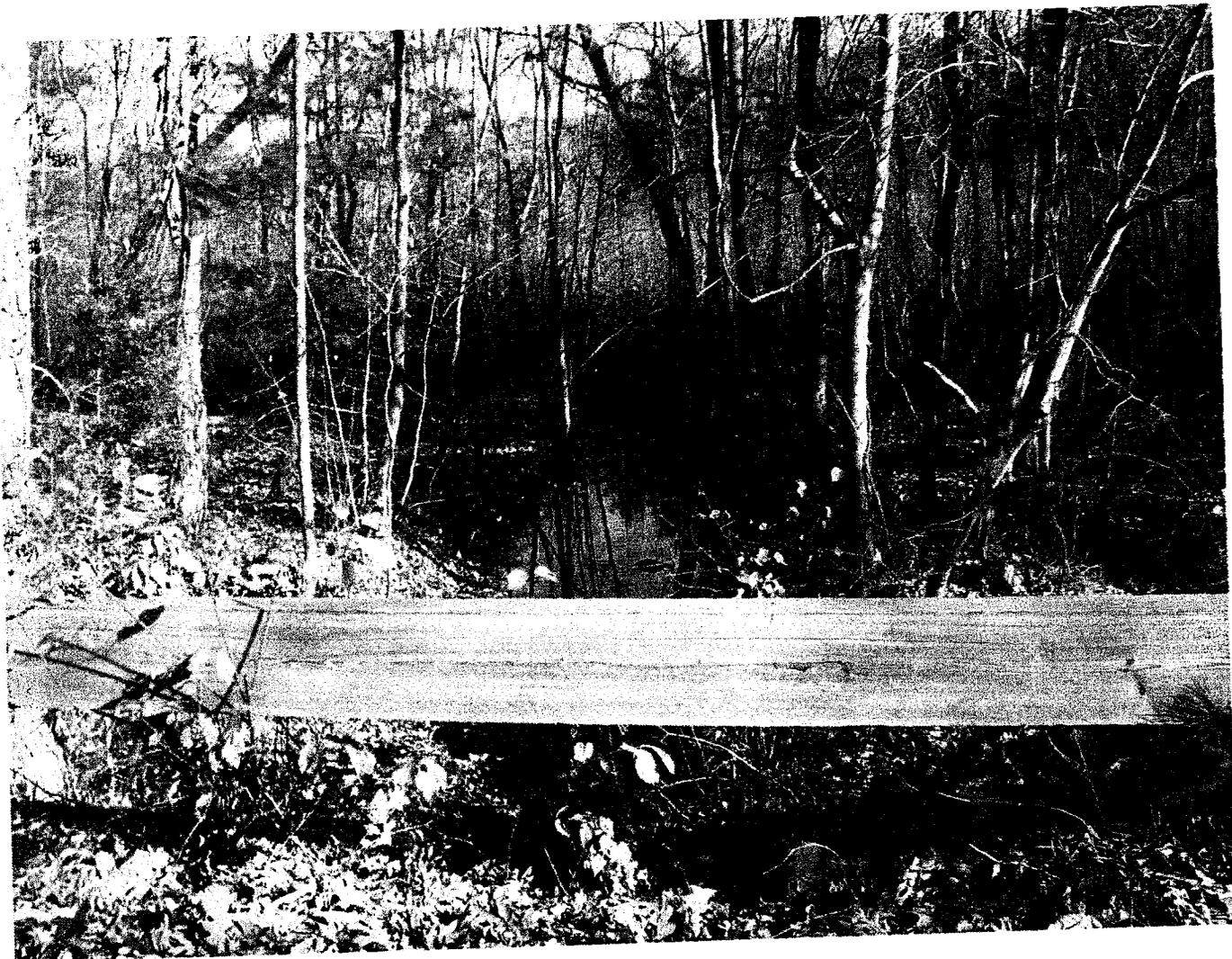
One street sign will be installed next to “Mary’s Brook” on Minot Ave. visible when heading west towards Taylor Road..

The other sign would be installed next to “Mary’s Brook” on Minot Ave. visible when heading east towards Concord Road.



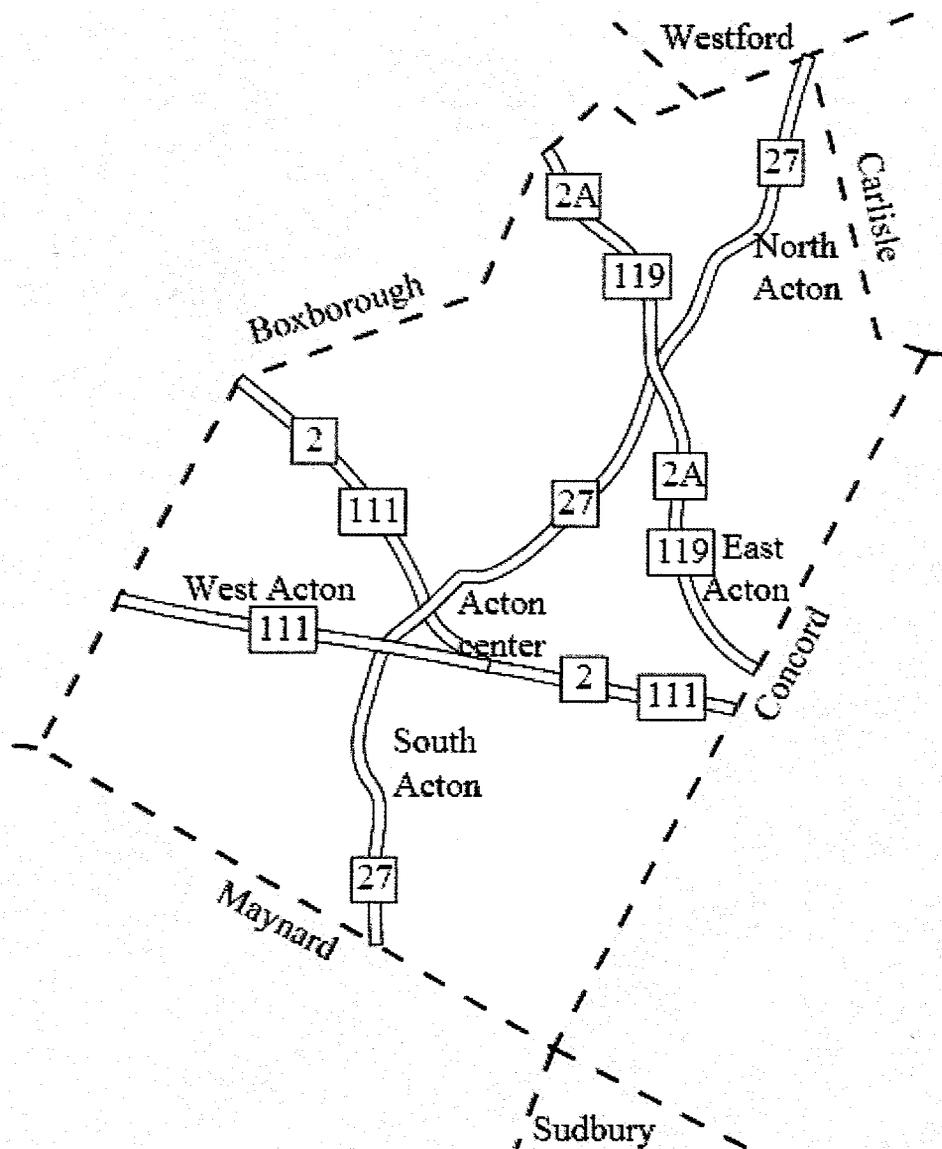
The Highway Department  
or the Natural Resources  
Department would  
install the signs.





Necessary permission  
would be obtained from  
the Acton Conservation  
Commission for sign  
installation in wetland  
resource area.

# Local maps would be updated to reflect the name and locations of Mary's Brook





After 5 years we will apply to the ***U.S. Board on Geographic Names*** so that “Mary’s Brook” may be applied to Federal maps and products.

Established, local recognition makes a stronger case!

Thank you very much  
for considering  
officially naming and dedicating  
this stream,  
“Mary’s Brook.”

