

Resolution Recognizing
The Rights of the Raquette River and its Watershed

WHEREAS, the Raquette River (Ahná:wate) is the lifeblood of the human and natural communities that make up its Watershed and surrounding ecosystems; and

WHEREAS, the Raquette River has since time immemorial sustained an immense diversity of species all connected in a tapestry of interdependent life; and

WHEREAS, communities around the world and across the North Country are legally recognizing the Rights of Rivers to protect the water that brings life to their communities;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we, the Potsdam Town Council, do hereby resolve, as follows:

1. That the Raquette River should be recognized as having certain legally enforceable rights; and
2. That residents of the Town of Potsdam should have the legal ability to enforce those rights; and
3. That the Potsdam Town Council pledges to work towards healthy connectivity between the River and land within its Watershed; and towards preserving natural biodiversity and pollution-free ecosystems; and
4. That the Potsdam Town Council pledges to work towards a review of local law for the purpose of recognizing and securing those rights, while providing for ways that the residents of the Town can enforce those rights.

Section 3. Effective Date of Resolution. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its passage.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED, this _____ day of _____ 2022.