River Corridor By-law Review

Community: Town of Hardwick
Reviewed by: Alexis Nevins
Date of Review: 08/22/2025

River Corridor review: *This section is not required for compliance with the minimum standards for National Flood Insurance Program participation. This section is for the use of VTDEC for determining VT Emergency Relief & Assistance Fund (ERAF) reimbursement level eligibility.*

Y Eligible for river corridor protection credit under ERAF? (Other municipal measures may still be needed to earn highest ERAF benefit.)

Y Cites River Corridor map adoption – Section 5.4 (B)(1).

Y Small stream 50' setbacks on all with a watershed size of at least ½ square mile, or equivalent (i.e. larger setback, vegetative buffer language) – Section 5.4 (B)(2).

Y Waiver language that applies to setbacks (or buffers used to qualify for 50' setback) that does not reduce river corridor standards

Y Prohibits (at least) new primary structures located in the River Corridor – Section 5.4 (C)(4) and (D).

Y Prohibits other development from the River Corridor (please list) – Section 5.4 (C)(2), (C)(4), and (D).

Y Requires that lateral additions or new accessory structures (within 50' of primary structure) are no closer to the stream or erosion hazard – Section 5.4 (D).

Y Adopts a Designated Downtown/Village/Center or administratively amended map – Section 2.1.

Y Within Designated Downtown/Village/Center or administratively amended map, new structures or additions cannot be located any closer to the stream or erosion hazard than existing structures or investments.

Y Performance Standard language equivalent – Section 5.4 (D)(3).

Y Definitions (from VT DEC 2018 Model Bylaw Section B):
- Y Associated transportation and utility networks
- Y Designated center
- Y Encroachment
- Y Equilibrium condition
- Y Fluvial erosion

Infill development
Public water access
Y River
Y River corridor
Y Top of Bank
Y Top of Slope

Comments:

In Article 7, Section 7.2 titled ‘Exemptions’ part (A) lists multiple items that do not require a zoning permit. The language states these exemptions are applicable if they are outside the Special Flood Hazard Area. I recommend adding the River Corridors/River Corridor Overlay District in conjunction with the SFHA to these exemptions.