

Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership
Natural Resource-Based Economic Development Standing Committee
MINUTES - Approved
May 12, 2021

Committee Members in attendance via Zoom:

Andrew Kawczak, Jay Healey, Jeffrey Thomas, Zachary Feury, Nicole Pyser

Other: Board Chair Hank Art; Admin. Agent Lisa Hayden, Guest speaker Charlie Cary

Public: Glen Ayers, Janet Sinclair

1. Meeting was called to order at approximately 3:33 p.m.

2. Guest speaker C. Cary was introduced and gave a brief presentation waste wood utilization. He said it has become his goal to try to help create value for all the wood residue generated from harvests and town forestry activity that can't be made into carbon sequestering products. Once wood is chipped, the carbon goes back to the atmosphere relatively quickly, he noted. He said he hopes the Partnership will take a look at the potential economic value of this resource. He suggested that an inventory would help assess how much available raw wood is generated from each MTWP community and where it ends up going. He advocates for keeping the value of that resource in local communities, where it might be used for decentralized, local wood heat, avoiding trucking to other locations. According to C. Cary, each ton of green wood could displace carbon emissions from 66 gallons of fuel oil, and keep \$150 that is currently exported in the local economy.

2. Admin. Agent L. Hayden noted that the Minutes approval had been unintentionally left off the agenda. A. Kawczak suggested approving under new items.

3. Chair Kawczak introduced discussion of the Committee's mission statement and several drafts were reviewed on shared screen.

J. Thomas moved and N. Pyser seconded a motion to approve a condensed version of the Mission statement shared on screen. The motion passed unanimously.

The approved Committee Mission Statement is as follows:

To Create Jobs through economically viable and environmentally sound rural economic development, forestry, recreational and tourist-oriented projects and policies thus strengthening our working landscapes and local economy.

4. Discussion began on Proposed Programs/Projects/Priorities, with an initial comment from J. Thomas that in his view the biggest priority is "to create jobs." Then, numerous Zoom attendees simultaneously logged on and began disrupting the meeting. L. Hayden indicated that the meeting would be rescheduled at a later date due to the interruption, and the meeting was abruptly halted soon after 4 p.m.