

# Woodlands Partnership of Northwest Massachusetts Board 2023

## A Natural Resource Based Economic Development and Forest Conservation Project

### MEETING: Woodlands Partnership of Northwest Massachusetts\* Board & Annual Meeting

**DATE:** Tuesday, June 20, 2023

**LOCATION:** Berkshire East, 66 Thunder Mountain Rd., Charlemont, MA

**TIME:** 6:00-8:00 p.m. (Light dinner at 5 p.m. – please RSVP by June 14 for meal count)



*Members of the public are welcome! RSVP by emailing [kconlin@newenglandforestry.org](mailto:kconlin@newenglandforestry.org)*

**ATTENDEES:** Woodlands Partnership (WP) Board Members and Public

**PROJECT STAFF:** B. O'Connor – EOEEA, L. Hayden – Administrative Agent/NEFF, K. Conlin – Cood., NEFF

**GUEST PRESENTER(S):** Lindsay Nystrom, Forest Legacy Program Director, Department of Conservation and Recreation; Alain Peteroy, Director of Land Conservation, Franklin Land Trust


*It is with gratitude and humility that we acknowledge that we are learning, speaking, working, and gathering on the ancestral homelands of the Mohican, Pocumtuc, Nipmuc, and Abenaki people, who are the Indigenous Peoples of this land. We pay honor and respect to their ancestors past and present as we commit to building a more inclusive and equitable space for all.*

Agenda items	Estimated Time	Key Person(s)
1. Call to order and land acknowledgement	6:00 p.m.	H. Art, Chair – Board Chair
2. Introducing WP Coordinator on Admin. Agent Staff	6:02 p.m.	L. Hayden – NEFF/Agent
3. Welcome and Roll Call Attendance of Board & Guests *Reminder Board member annual training certificates	6:05 p.m.	K. Conlin – NEFF/Agent Asst.
4. Review and approval of January 31, 2023 Board Minutes 	6:15 p.m.	A. Peteroy, Clerk - WP Board
5. Review and vote on attached proposal to amend Board membership: to include Indigenous Peoples representation on the Woodlands Partnership Board by inviting the Ohketeau Cultural Center in Ashfield - which seeks to provide a safe haven for the Indigenous community in the region – an appointment to the Partnership Board. Should this motion carry by at least a 2/3 majority, the Ohketeau Cultural Center would be included on the membership roster included in the Woodlands Partnership Bylaws. 	6:20 p.m.	H. Art, Chair – Board Chair

**Motion [see Sec. 91 (e) (3) of enabling law re: membership below]:**

The Ohketeau Cultural Center of Ashfield, MA, an organization devoted to providing a safe haven for the Indigenous community in the region and having a mission that aligns with those of the Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership (operating as the Woodlands Partnership of Northwest Massachusetts), the Woodlands Partnership Board hereby votes to expand

its membership by including a representative of the Ohketeau Cultural Center effective November 1, 2023.

<p><b>6.</b> Election of WP’s proposed officer slate for a three-year term:  Current nominations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dicken Crane of Windsor for Chair;</li> <li>• Art Schwenger of Heath for Vice Chair;</li> <li>• Jeffrey Thomas of Williamsburg, Lever, Inc. representative for Treasurer <i>(*Alain Peteroy of Worthington, Franklin Land Trust Rep., remaining on as Clerk. Any new officer appointments to commence following the end of this meeting).</i></li> </ul>	6:30 p.m.	H. Art – Board Chair
<p><b>7.</b> Woodlands Partnership Municipal Grant Application Announcement by EOEEA</p>	6:40 p.m.	Bob O’Connor – EOEEA
<p><b>8.</b> Forest Legacy Program Presentation and Discussion:</p> <p><i>Guest Speakers:</i> -Lindsay Nystrom, Forest Legacy Program Director, DCR -Alain Peteroy, Director of Land Conservation, FLT</p> <p>Q&amp;A with WP Board / public</p>	6:45-7:10 p.m.	L. Nystrom – DCR; A. Peteroy – FLT / WP Board
<p><b>9.</b> Hall Tavern Farm Update</p>	7:20 – 7:25 p.m.	J. Thomas – WP Board
<p><b>10.</b> Agent updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Non-member Municipalities: Welcoming Buckland and Florida; Outreach to Savoy and Colrain (*on Nov. 1 voting rights for new member towns become effective; Board appointments can be made now)</li> <li>- Report on Earth Day tree planting &amp; identification of at least 2 more riparian sites for USFS grant</li> <li>- “Action on Forest Climate Resilience” proposal for Congressionally Directed Spending</li> <li>- Upcoming events including second Stakeholder Focus Group for the Virtual Forest Center on Mon. June 26 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. To attend: <a href="#">register here</a></li> </ul>	7:25-7:40 p.m.	L. Hayden – NEFF / Agent
<p><b>11.</b> Next steps regarding draft name change legislative language</p>	7:40-7:45 p.m.	L. Hayden, NEFF/Agent; H. Art, Chair – Board Chair
<p><b>12.</b> Committee updates as needed and next meetings – refocusing Committees on Partnership Plan priorities over next six months</p>	7:45-7:50 p.m.	H. Art, Chair - Board Chair; L. Hayden, NEFF/ Agent
<p><b>13.</b> Any item(s) not anticipated within 48 hours</p>	7:50 p.m.	H. Art, Chair - Board Chair; L. Hayden, NEFF/ Agent
<p><b>14.</b> Public Comment</p>	7:50-8:00 p.m.	
<p><b>15.</b> Adjournment</p>	8:00 p.m.	H. Art, Chair - WP Board

 **Action Required**

Please contact the facilitator (978-952-6856 x131) with any requests for accessibility.

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Massachusetts House Bill No. 4835, filed 26 July 2018 – Excerpt re: Board membership

(3) The partnership board may, by 2/3 vote, allow additional members to the partnership board; provided, however, that the mission of the additional member aligns with the purposes identified in subsection (b); and provided further, that no additional members shall be allowed if the total number of members from those entities identified in clauses (B) through (P), exceeds those identified in clause (A) {As of August, 2023 B through P = 15; A= 19}.

(b) The purposes of the Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership are:

- (i) to support and expand sustainable forest management to enhance public benefits including, but not limited to, outdoor recreation opportunities, air and water quality, watershed management, soil conservation, biological diversity, carbon sequestration and storage, fish and wildlife habitat, forest products and forestry-related jobs and to increase the resiliency of forests to threats such as fire, ice, wind, insects, disease and invasive pests and plants;
- (ii) to increase forest land conservation through conservation restrictions that encourage and support sustainable forest management practices and intact forest ecosystems;
- (iii) to support and increase sustainable natural resource based economic development and employment;
- (iv) to support and provide comprehensive education and visitor information programs to increase public understanding of and appreciation for the ecological, recreational and economic benefits of forests;
- (v) to support and promote the long-term social and fiscal sustainability of the participating communities in the area; and
- (vi) to create a long-term partnership between towns and cities, regional and other organizations with a presence in the region, educational institutions, the executive office of energy and environmental affairs and the United States Forest Service.

**Proposed Motion:** The Ohketeau Cultural Center of Ashfield, MA, an organization devoted to providing a safe haven for the Indigenous community in the region and having a mission that aligns with those of the Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership (operating as the Woodlands Partnership of Northwest Massachusetts), the Woodlands Partnership Board hereby votes to expand its membership by including a representative of the Ohketeau Cultural Center effective November 1, 2023.

**\*On Oct. 11, 2022, the Board of the public body created in 2018 voted unanimously to change its name from the “Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership” in its bylaws to operating as the “Woodlands Partnership of Northwest Massachusetts” and requested the state legislature and USDA Forest Service to officially establish and recognize the new name.**