

MOHAWK TRAIL WOODLANDS PARTNERSHIP

Forest-Based Economic Development and Conservation

Mohawk Trail Woodland Partnership

Executive Committee Minutes

June 18, 2020

*Zoom Virtual Meeting hosted by Berkshire Regional Planning Commission
as allowed by Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker's Executive Order dated March 12,
2020 suspending certain provision of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c.30 sec.20.*

Attendance

MTWP Executive Committee Members

H. Art, Chair – Williamstown MTWP Board Member
J. Nowak – Adams MTWP Board Member
B. O'Connor, EOEEA

MTWP Staff

Tom Matuszko, Executive Director, BRPC
Peggy Sloan, Director of Planning & Development – FRCOG

Guests

L. Nystrom, DCR Forest Legacy Program
L. Parnass, Berkshire Eagle

Actions

H. Art called the first MTWP Executive Committee meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

The MTWP Executive Committee discussed follow-up needed from the June 6, 2020 MTWP Board Meeting. A Selection Subcommittee needs to be formed to assist with the Request for Proposals (RFP) and hiring process for the Administrative Agent for the MTWP. B. O'Connor expects the RFP to be issued soon with a deadline for proposals in the Fall 2020. In addition a Bylaws Subcommittee needs to be formed to bring suggested Bylaw amendments to the next MTWP Board meeting. Staff will assist with forming a Bylaws Subcommittee and an Administrative Agent Selection Subcommittee.

The MTWP Executive Committee discussed agenda items for the October 20, 2020 MTWP Board meeting and decided on the following agenda items: 1) Review, Discussion and Potential Vote on the MTWP Region joining the Forest Legacy Program; 2) Review, Discussion and Prioritization of Possible USFS Research Projects for the MTWP Region; 3) Review, Discussion and Vote for the Administrative Agent for the MTWP and 4) Review, Discussion and Vote to amend the MTWP Bylaws.

L. Nystrom explained the process for potentially adding the MTWP region to the Forest Legacy program which provides funding for conservation restriction to

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conserve forest land. The State's Assessment of Need would need to be amended. The MTWP region has already been assessed but new mapping would be needed. In addition, a letter would be sent out to all town Select Boards inviting them to submit comments, concerns or letters of support. The MTWP Board could also submit a letter of support if they decide they would like to see the MTWP region included in the Forest Legacy program. L. Nystrom was invited to present at the next MTWP Board Meeting in October 2020.

The MTWP Executive Committee would like to prepare a Draft letter to be sent to the Federal legislative delegation representing the region requesting that someone from the USFS be assigned to sit on the MTWP Board and to also assign USFS staff to work on the MTWP project. A Draft letter will be prepared before the next MTWP Executive Committee and sent out for review.

Votes

Adjourn: J. Nowak moved to adjourn at 3:05 p.m. B. O'Connor seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.