

MOHAWK TRAIL WOODLANDS PARTNERSHIP

Forest-Based Economic Development and Conservation

Mohawk Trail Woodland Partnership

Executive Committee Minutes

July 16, 2020

This was a **Virtual Meeting** 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
W. Sanford, Greater Shelburne Falls Area Business Association

MTWP Staff

T. Matuszko, Executive Director, BRPC

Other Attendees

R. Chandler, MTWP Vice-Chair
A. Peteroy, Franklin Land Trust
M. Saborun, Franklin Land Trust

Hank Art called the meeting to order at 2:22.

1. Approval of Minutes from June 18, 2020 meeting
With the change of L. Nystrom to Lindsay Nystrom in the narrative, the minutes of June 18, 2020 were approved by roll call vote, after a motion and second: H. Art, yes; J. Nowak, yes; B. O'Connor, yes; W. Sanford, abstain.

2. Subcommittees

Hank Art appointed Rick Chandler to be Chair of the Bylaw subcommittee. That committee will be as follows:

Rick Chandler (Chair)
Alain Peteroy
Rebecca Stone
Hank Art
Peggy Sloan (staff)

Hank Art will follow-up with Keith Ross to determine if he would serve as chair of the Administrative Agent Selection Review Committee which would be as follows:

Keith Ross (Chair – will be asked by Hank Art)
Whit Sanford
Hank Art
Joe Nowak
Tom Matuszko (staff)

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3. Administrative Agent follow-up

Bob O'Connor reported that the EOEEA approval is taking more time than anticipated. The EOEEA legal review team needs extra review time because it is a different kind of procurement.

As an alternative to the current proposal, the EOEEA legal review team wants to use a consultant from the standard list of pre-approved consultants. If necessary, this consultant off the list would hire the non-profit and have a small role in administering the contract for the administrative agent.

If a pre-approved consultant were to be used, comments were suggested that it would be good if the pre-approved consultant were in the area and familiar with the area. The selected consultant would have to be familiar with natural resource tourism development in addition to conservation. This consultant would still need to work with the Board and EOEEA on the selection. The hiring of the pre-approved consultant would be done by EOEEA with approval of the Executive Committee. Questions raised were: would this arrangement cause less non-profits to apply because of the extra layer of management; who would the Administrative Agent report to. This arrangement would require two procurements; one for EOEEA to hire the pre-selected consultant; and two, for the pre-selected consultant to procure for the Administrative agent. It might slow the process down a few weeks.

Bob O'Connor said that a decision was possible within the next couple of weeks.

4. USFS participation

Tom Matuszko read language he is suggesting be pursued by our federal legislators to enable the USFS participate in the Partnership Board and hence Executive Committee; *"The United States Forest Service is authorized to participate in the Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership and the Chief of the United States Forest Service is authorized to appoint one individual to the Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership Board to represent the United States Forest Service."* It was agreed that this language was appropriate, and Tom will follow-up with the legislators

5. Contract extension for Peggy Sloan and Tom Matuszko as MTWP Staff.

Tom Matuszko reported that Peggy Sloan told him that the Franklin Regional Council of Governments had received approval to extend the support contract.

6. Preparation for the next MTWP board meeting

Discussion of the next MTWP was deferred. Instead there was discussion about the next Executive Committee meeting, tentatively set for 2:00 pm on August 20, 2020. The main agenda item would be report of the subcommittees.

7. Other items –

Bob O'Connor reported EOEEA has received 8 town and 1 regional application for the current town grant program with announcement within a couple of weeks.

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn was made, seconded and unanimously approved after a roll call vote at 3:20 p.m.