

Woodlands Partnership of Northwest Massachusetts* Board Meeting – June 26, 2024 (hybrid)

Mission: Natural Resource-Based Economic Development, Forest Conservation & Municipal Sustainability



Date: Wednesday, June 26, 2024 **Time:** 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. (5:00 p.m. dinner) **Location:** The Rowe Center, 22 Kings Hwy, Rowe, MA
Members of the public are welcome. Please RSVP for the link at any time by emailing kconlin@newenglandforestry.org

Attendees: Woodlands Partnership (WP) Board Members and Public

Project Staff: L. Hayden – Administrative Agent/NEFF; K. Conlin – Coord./NEFF

Guest Speaker(s): Andrew Randazzo, Forest Ecologist, Mass Audubon; Josh Rapp, Senior Forest Ecologist, Mass Audubon; Rick Whitney, Forest Ecologist, Mass Audubon

The Woodlands Partnership is currently engaged in editing its Land Acknowledgement in conjunction with the formation of a working group on Indigenous rights and the role the Partnership might play in addressing ongoing injustice and furthering equity.

Agenda Items	Estimated Time	Key Person(s)
1. Call to order and welcome	6:00 p.m.	D. Crane – Board Chair K. Conlin – NEFF/Coord.
2. Roll Call Attendance of Board & Guests *Reminder: Board member annual (Open Meeting Law) and semi-annual (Ethics) training compliance	6:05 p.m.	K. Conlin – NEFF/Coord.
1. Mass Audubon presentation on Climate-Smart Forestry Practices in the Region funded by Woodlands Partnership grants with Agent/NEFF	6:10 p.m.	J. Rapp – Mass Audubon A. Randazzo – Mass Audubon
2. TheForestCenter.org website debut, overview of the content and development process with multiple partners	6:30 p.m.	A. Randazzo – Mass Audubon R. Whitney – Mass Audubon
3. Review and approval of February 29, 2024 Board Minutes 	6:45 p.m.	A. Peteroy – Board Clerk
4. Recognition of Larry & Susan Flaccus and Franklin Land Trust on recent conservation	6:50 p.m.	L. Hayden – NEFF/Agent A. Peteroy – Board Clerk
5. Board discussion and vote: Authorization for Agent staff to distribute funds for National Heritage Area Feasibility Study in partnership with local planning agencies or others 	6:55 p.m.	D. Crane – Board Chair K. Conlin – NEFF/Coord. L. Hayden, NEFF/Agent
6. Agent Update: WP website debut; USFS name change; name change bill updates; legislative outreach; EEA grant submission; Catalyst grant submission; IRA landowner outreach grant application planning; Colrain & Savoy; Board seat vacancies; Agent contract; upcoming events	7:10 p.m.	L. Hayden – NEFF/Agent K. Conlin – NEFF/Coord.

7. Board Chair Update: Discussion of committee organization and communication; Executive Committee and Chairs Summit; approval of new Committee slate; Forests as Climate Solutions	7:20 p.m.	D. Crane – Board Chair Agent staff
8. Updates from Committee Chairs	7:30 p.m.	Committee Chairs
9. Any item(s) not anticipated within 48 hours	7:50 p.m.	D. Crane – Board Chair L. Hayden – NEFF/ Agent
10. Public Comment	7:55 p.m.	
11. Adjournment	8:00 p.m.	D. Crane – Board Chair

^ - Action Required

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

*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. As of March 26, 2024, the USFS has recognized the new name.

Official posting: Peru Town website: www.townofperuma.com

Posted June 18, 2024 @ 4:10 PM ~ *Kim A Leach* Town Clerk