

**Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership
Finance & Budgeting Standing Committee
July 15, 2021**

Approved Minutes

Members Present: Keith Ross, Chair, Whit Sanford, Rick Chandler

Others: Hank Art, Board Chair; Lisa Hayden, NEFF/Admin. Agent; Glen Ayers, public

1. Meeting was called to order at 2:02 p.m.
2. Approval of minutes from April 1, and June 3, 2021 was moved by R. Chandler & seconded by W. Sanford with minor correction and passed unanimously.
3. Review proposed Chart of Accounts – Chair K. Ross shared a template for tracking accounts, which could be used for expenses and program income, for discussion. It was noted that it will be important to note the source of income, as well as matching funds, which most grants require. K. Ross invited members to mark up the template with ideas, and R. Chandler suggested sharing it with other Committees, and that program areas might be organized by Committee.
4. The goal is to draft the Committee Mission statement in the next month or so, as suggestions are gathered for potential funding sources, with a focus on finances and accounting.
5. Committee input to relevant elements in Partnership plan - There was discussion of big-picture objectives, through the Partnership Plan update, to be coordinated by the Agent. W. Sanford noted her view that the original plan fulfills its purpose as a planning document, but does not relay the feel of the region as a place. R. Chandler noted its academic approach, and suggested there was a greater emphasis on tourism than forest products.
6. Agent L. Hayden reported that a USFS grant and matching state grant proposal have been submitted for the MTWP with a focus on climate-informed tree planting in riparian areas and town forest stewardship plans.
7. Spreadsheet of Partnership needs and potential funding sources – Members discussed potential strategies for raising revenue and consolidating the Partnership’s message to that end. One idea is to pursue having the region declared a national corridor, similar to the Park Service heritage corridors, or having a member-supported donor base for the MTWP. Having the Plan revised and focused could help clarify priorities for funding proposals, and having Committee input on their specific budget needs will also help refine priorities. W. Sanford suggested that an aide in Sen. Hinds’s office, Jon Gould, may be interested in the MTWP, and could be invited to listen in on some meetings.
8. Public Comment: Glen Ayers spoke, suggesting that the MTWP could reach out to the Northeast Wilderness Trust, which has a focus on wilderness conservation and is raising money for a Wildlands Partnership, and he also offered to present to the Board.
9. The meeting adjourned at 2:44 p.m.