

Woodlands Partnership of Northwest Massachusetts* Board – November 2023

A Natural Resource Based Economic Development and Forest Conservation Project

Meeting: Woodlands Partnership of Northwest Massachusetts* Board Meeting (hybrid)

Date: Wednesday, November 15, 2023

Location: Shelburne-Buckland Community Center, 53 Main Street, Shelburne Falls, MA, and via Zoom

Time: 6:00-8:00 p.m. (please join us at the Center at 5:30 p.m. for refreshments and socializing)




Members of the public are welcome at this hybrid meeting. Please RSVP for the link by emailing kconlin@newenglandforestry.org

Attendees: Woodlands Partnership (WP) Board Members and Public

Project Staff: B. O'Connor – EOEEA, L. Hayden – Administrative Agent/NEFF, K. Conlin – Coord./NEFF

Guest Speaker(s): Anne Gobi, Director of Rural Affairs, Executive Office of Economic Development; Kristen Elechko, Western Massachusetts Director, Office of Governor Maura T. Healey

It is with gratitude and humility that we acknowledge that we are learning, speaking, working, and gathering on the ancestral homelands of the Mohican, Nipmuc, Pocumtuck, and Abenaki people, who are the Indigenous Peoples of this land. We pay honor and respect to their ancestors past and descendants 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.	D. Crane – Board Chair K. Conlin – NEFF/Coord.
2. Welcoming new Board Members (and new Towns/Org. seats)	6:02 p.m.	L. Hayden – NEFF/Agent
3. Bob O'Connor and Peggy Sloan recognition	6:06 p.m.	D. Crane – Board Chair
4. Roll Call Attendance of Board & Guests *Reminder: Board member (semi)annual training certificates	6:10 p.m.	K. Conlin – NEFF/Coord.
3. Review and approval of June 20, 2023 Board Minutes 	6:15 p.m.	A. Peteroy – Board Clerk
4. Guest Speakers: Anne Gobi - Director of Rural Affairs, Executive Office of Economic Development; Kristen Elechko - Western Massachusetts Director, Office of Governor Maura T. Healey - Brief Presentations: Focusing on W. Mass. Communities - Discussion/Q+A from WP Board and public	6:20 – 6:30 6:30 – 6:40 6:40 – 7:00 p.m.	Anne Gobi – Director of Rural Affairs; Kristen Elechko – Western Massachusetts Director
5. Jeffrey Thomas, Lever, Inc. Q+A/discussion with local wood producer and economic development updates	7:00 – 7:20 p.m.	J. Thomas – Board Treasurer
6. Board vote on bylaw change to expand Executive Committee membership and vote on vacant seat(s) 	7:20 p.m.	D. Crane – Board Chair
7. Chair Update: 1) Committee assignments approval by Board  2) Committee Ten-Year Plan directive & Federal Designation,	7:25 p.m.	D. Crane – Board Chair

3) Forests as Climate Solutions, 4) Communication with Stockbridge
Munsee Band of Mohicans

8. Agent Update: Website (VFC and WP), CDS, Resilient Lands, Ten-Year Plan updates	7:35 p.m.	L. Hayden – NEFF/Agent
9. Woodlands Partnership Municipal Grant Awards by EOEEA	7:40 p.m.	B. O'Connor – EOEEA
10. Any item(s) not anticipated within 48 hours	7:50 p.m.	D. Crane – Board Chair L. Hayden – NEFF/ Agent
11. Public Comment	7:50- 8:00 p.m.	
12. 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.