

Woodlands Partnership of Northwest Massachusetts*

Board Meeting – Wed. November 5, 2025, 4-6 p.m., Ashfield Com. Hall

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

Date: Wednesday, Nov. 5, 2025 **Time:** 4 - 6 p.m. In-person **Location:** Ashfield Community Hall, 521 Main St., Ashfield, MA. (Light refreshments.) *Members of the public are welcome. Email lhayden@newenglandforestry.org for information or to RSVP.*
Attendees: Woodlands Partnership (WP) Board Members and Public; **Project Staff:** L. Hayden – Administrative Agent/New England Forestry Foundation; **Guest(s):** Dr. Jessica Dolan, Ph.D. – Indigenous-Focused Natural & Cultural Inventory Consultant; Jessica Atwood, Franklin Regional Council of Governments – Heritage Area Consultant

| Agenda Items | Estimated Time | Key Person(s) |
|---|------------------------|--|
| 1. Call to order and Welcome to Ashfield Community Hall | 4:00 p.m. | D. Crane – Board Chair |
| 2. Introduction of Guests and new Board members - Board Roll Call | 4:05 p.m. | L. Hayden – NEFF/Agent |
| 3. Review and approval of June 24, 2025 Board Minutes ▲ | 4:15 p.m. | A. Peteroy – Board Clerk |
| 4. Agent Overview of National Heritage Area feasibility study process | 4:20 p.m. | L. Hayden – NEFF/Agent |
| 5. Board Chair report: Introductory meeting with Stockbridge Munsee Band of Mohicans representatives on behalf of Partnership | 4:30 p.m. | D. Crane – Board Chair |
| 6. Update on work underway to complete an Indigenous-Focused Natural & Cultural Assets Inventory as part of the Heritage Area study | 4:40 p.m. 4:55 | Jessica Dolan, Ph.D. – consultant presentation; Q&A, discussion |
| 7. Report on mapping, statistics and regional assets RPA study; Brainstorming on Heritage Area components & emerging themes | 5:05 p.m. 5:15 p.m. | Jessica Atwood, FRCOG & Agent: Questions for Board on focusing themes |
| 8. Potential collaboration with Deerfield Wild & Scenic River Initiative and other federal designations | 5:30 p.m. | Agent or guest speaker TBD |
| 9. Committee Updates as Needed: PILOT reform bills; Education, Outreach & Research: Chair wanted - How Do Forests Grow; Natural Resource-based Economic Development New Chair | 5:35 p.m. | Sam Haupt – Municipal Financial Sustainability Com. John Waite, FCCDC |
| 10. Other Agent Reports: Contract update; Board member listening tour; state & federal grants: Voices for Forest outreach projects; Hawley Town Garage tree-planting Nov. 15-16 – volunteers wanted; MVP Letter of Interest; Input on draft Land Acknowledgement; Upcoming meetings | 5:40 p.m. | L. Hayden – NEFF/Agent |
| 11. Any item(s) not anticipated within 48 hours | 5:45 p.m. | L. Hayden – NEFF/Agent D. Crane – Board Chair |
| 12. Public Comment | 5:55 p.m. | |
| 13. Adjourn | 6:00 p.m. | D. Crane – Board Chair |

▲- Action Required

Please contact the facilitator (978-952-6856 x121) with questions, requests for accessibility.

*On Oct. 11, 2022, the Board of the public body created in 2018 voted unanimously to change its name from “Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership” in its bylaws to operating as the “Woodlands Partnership of Northwest Massachusetts,” the name now recognized in law by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and by the USDA Forest Service.