

## **2014 Annual Meeting Minutes**

**Friday, February 21, 2014 ~ 12:15 PM - 3:30 PM**  
**At Assabet River National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center**  
**680 Hudson Road, Sudbury, MA**

### **12:15 PM - Call to Order, Welcome, and Introductions - Rich Hubbard, MLTC Steering Committee Chair**

### **12:18 PM - Approval of Steering Committee Minutes**

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Steering Committee Minutes dated Nov. 22, 2013. The motion passed unanimously.

### **12:20 PM - Election of Trustees - MLTC Steering Committee Chair & Michael Lach, Secretary**

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Nominating Committee's recommended slate of candidates for the Steering Committee Chair (Kathy Orlando) and Vice-Chair (Lisa Vernegaard) and the MA Land Trust Coalition's (MLTC) Board of Trustees (3-year term ending 2017: Marylynn Gentry, Karen Grey, Mark Robinson, Andrew Magee, and Bob Wilber; elect to unexpired vacant seat term ending in 2015: Rich Hubbard). The motion passed unanimously. A list of the candidates was available online in advance of the Steering Committee Meeting at [www.massland.org/files/BoardBallot2014.pdf](http://www.massland.org/files/BoardBallot2014.pdf). *All Member Land Trusts of the Coalition present at the Annual Meeting are entitled to nominate a candidate and vote for the Steering Committee Chair and Vice-Chair, and the Board of Trustees.*

### **12:25 PM - MLTC Reports**

2013 financial report - John Page, Treasurer: Actuals for 2013 included \$1,000 surplus

Director's report – Charles Knox, Executive Director

Programs report – Kathy McGrath, Coordinator: Reviewed conference planning and discount for MLTC members available until March 8<sup>th</sup>

Report on 12<sup>th</sup> annual State Agency – Land Trust Retreat – Bob Wilber

### **12:35 PM - Enforcement of the New Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Law– Janet Morrison, Executive Director, North County Land Trust and OHV Advisory Committee**

Examples of OHV use prohibitions:

1. Not on public ways
2. Not on private land, except if user owns the land or with written permission from owner of private land
3. Not on public land, except on designated OHV trails
4. Not in wetlands or through streams, rivers
5. Not within 150 feet of a residence
6. Not under age 14

For background materials, go to [www.massland.org/2014SCMeetings](http://www.massland.org/2014SCMeetings).

### **1:30 PM - EOEEA Update – Stephanie Cooper, Assistant Secretary for Land & Forest Conservation**

State grant rounds will be announced soon. There are coastal resilience funding programs available for application regarding projects that help mitigate impacts from climate change and sea level rise.

### **1:35 PM - Rich Hubbard, Natural Gas Pipeline Potential Siting on Western MA Conservation Land**

Will the state defend conservation restrictions (CR) on lands preserved in the public interest? Will the state defend Article 97 lands? If the MA Dept. of Public Utilities consents, will the state use eminent domain in this process? We have a collective commitment to protect the lands that have been preserved by land trusts, municipal, state, and federal entities.

MLTC will send its opposition letter to the Governor and EOEEA Secretary.

**2:00 PM - Legislative Update – Steve Long, The Nature Conservancy (TNC)**

Steve distributed a state legislative policy update and highlighted the following: Environmental Bond, MA Endangered Species Act (MESA), Terrestrial Wind Energy Facility Siting Guidelines, zoning, climate change adaptation, water infrastructure, dam removal funding, Sustainable Water Management Initiative as well as federal legislative topics including the Farm Bill, budget, Fisheries /Magnuson-Stevens Act, and CT River/National Blueway.

**2:18 PM - The Governor’s Race: Opportunities to Influence & Educate Candidates– Steve Long, TNC**

Steve highlighted plans and goals, roles and responsibilities among partners. Discussion followed.

**2:55 PM - Adaptation Coalition - Loring Schwarz, Mass Audubon and MLTC Vice-President**

This coalition advocates for planning, legislation, policies, and other initiatives relative to climate change adaptation. The coalition includes MassAudubon, TNC, Env. League of MA, Trust for Public Land, Conservation Law Foundation, Sierra Club (MA chapter), Appalachian Mtn. Club, The Trustees of Reservations, Charles River Watershed Association, Mass. Rivers Alliance, The Boston Harbor Association, Association to Preserve Cape Cod, Great Marsh Coalition, MA Association of Conservation Commissions, MLTC, MA Association of Planning Directors, Metropolitan Area Planning Council, MA Association of Regional Planning Agencies, Collaborative Institute for Oceans, Climate and Security at UMass Boston, Cape & Islands Self-Reliance Corporation.

**3:18 PM - LTA Update – Kevin Case, Northeast Regional Director, Land Trust Alliance (LTA)**

Kevin highlighted LTA initiatives including planning for Rally in Providence, RI, Terrafirma conservation defense insurance program, and other LTA efforts

**3:15 PM - Hyperlinked Mapping Project, Mark Robinson & Mike Lach, The Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts, Inc.**

Using ArcMap GIS, Acrobat Professional XI and Google Drive, Mark & Mike presented an interactive mapping project to show how information (e.g. assessor field cards, deeds, CRs, recorded state grant project agreements, other) about ownership and management custody of conservation land in Brewster can be made more accessible to land managers.

**3:35 PM - Adjourn**