

Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition, Inc. 18 Wolbach Road, Sudbury, MA 01776 978.443.2233 - fax: 978.443.2333 email: Info@MassLand.org

2014 Spring Meeting – Minutes Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition (MLTC) Steering Committee (SC)

Friday, May 16, 2014 ~ 12:30 PM - 3:30 PM
At UMass Medical School
South Street, Shrewsbury, MA

12:30 PM - Call to Order, Welcome, and Introductions - Kathy Orlando, MLTC Steering Committee Chair Introductions

12:35 PM - Review & Approval of Minutes from SC Meeting on Feb. 21, 2014

Prior to and during the SC meeting, the proposed minutes were made available for review at: www.massland.org/files/SC meeting minutes 21Feb2014.pdf

Motion made to approve SC meeting minutes from Feb. 21, 2014. Motion seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

12:45 PM - Invasive Insects Update - Stacy Kilb, Asian Longhorn Beetle (ALB) Outreach Coordinator, MA DAR

Stacy Kilb presented about invasive beetle pests in Massachusetts, the damage they cause to our environment, their current status, and what we can do about early detection efforts.

1:15 PM - Northeast Expansion Pipeline - Katy Eisman, Massachusetts Pipe Line Awareness Network (MASSPLAN)

Update on actions taken and resources available. Discussion included whether the energy proposed for delivery by the pipeline is actually needed, elevate the issue at the state and federal levels, and points of opposition effectiveness. Bob Levite suggested that ultimately the proposed project will arrive at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and that MLTC can help lead an effort to identify an attorney familiar with FERC and the most effective ways to oppose the project. MLTC convened a subcommittee to identify MLTC's next steps and coordinate with Massachusetts Pipe Line Awareness Network (MASSPLAN). Kathy McGrath recorded names of subcommittee members.

See this website for more information: http://www.massplan.org/

2:25 PM - Legislative Update – Steve Long, The Nature Conservancy

Steve provided information on current legislative initiatives, state budget, environmental bond, and more summarized in a policy update that he distributed during the SC meeting.

2:45 PM - MLTC Reports

2014 first quarter financial report – Chuck Knox on behalf of John Page, Treasurer Director's report – Charles Knox, Executive Director

- Overview of 2014 Annual Land Conservation Conference (largest turnout ever with 545 attendees, 35 workshops, 23 sponsors [previously 6])
- Chuck praised Amy & Kathy on producing MLTC e-news emails
- Chuck has been conducting outreach to gubernatorial candidates
- Update of MLTC land trust assistance program for all-volunteer land trusts
- Grants
- Renewed lease of office space at Sudbury Valley Trustees
- Land Trust Alliance (LTA) Rally in Providence this September
- MLTC website is being enhanced including addition of online contribution through PayPal

Programs report – Kathy McGrath, Coordinator

Massachusetts Easement Defense Subcommittee (MEDS) is meeting regularly

3:00 PM - EOEEA Update - Bob O'Connor, Land and Forest Policy Director

- 100,000 Acres of New Conservation Land & 150 New Parks Report: A Legacy for the Next Generation
- In the next report, Bob is focusing on explaining the value of conservation land in more easily understandable language for audiences that could include a younger generation.
- Urban tree planting initiative
- Melissa Cryan is making tremendous progress with the "Our Common Backyard" initiative to place a playground or spray park in 54 communities

3:20 PM - Land Trust Alliance (LTA) Update - Kevin Case, LTA Northeast Regional Director

- LTA Rally in Providence, RI this September
- Process being drafted for revision of LTA Standards & Practices
- Ten state land trust associations from the Northeast will be meeting in Hartford, CT
- Process to pass federal conservation easement tax incentive still in progress

3:30 pm - Vote to nominate for LTA awards

At Rally, LTA honors two land trusts that demonstrate excellence: one award is for land trusts with staff and one is for land trusts that are managed solely by volunteers. LTA also honors an individual who exemplifies a lifetime of service and leadership for the national land conservation community with an award named after the founder of the Alliance, Kingsbury Browne.

Motion made to nominate Wes Ward for the individual award and Nantucket Conservation Foundation for the organizational award. Motion seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

3:35 PM - Property Tax Update - Bob Levite, Attorney & Ray Lyons, Attorney

MA Supreme Judicial Court ruled in favor of New England Forestry Foundation (NEFF) resolving an issue after 7-8 years of dedicated time, energy and expertise by numerous land trust affiliates.

3:30 PM - Adjourn

Motion was made to adjourn. Motion seconded. Motion passed.