



20th Annual (2023) Land Trust & State Agency Retreat Thursday, October 5th and Friday, October 6th, 2023

Agenda (as of Sept. 28, 2023)

THURSDAY, October 5th (IN PERSON at Harvard Forest (HF), Fisher Museum, Petersham)

Cost: \$20 (includes in-person attendance both days and coffee & tea both days)
Limited to 90 attendees. Advance [registration required](#) via Eventbrite. Registration closes at noon on Tuesday, October 3.

Overnight option available for up to 23 people for \$90 extra. Reserve via Eventbrite link above.

Focus: Implementing selected aspects of the Resilient Lands Initiative

8:30 - 9:00 a.m. Gathering, coffee

9 :00 - 9:15 a.m. Welcome / Introductions

9:15 – 10:45 a.m. Indigenous Land Relationships: A Conversation with Nipmuc Leaders

10:45 – 11:00 a.m. Goodbyes / break

11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Conservation work with Environmental Justice (EJ) communities: Partnerships & Community Engagement

1. Brief-summary of EJ elements of the Resilient Lands Initiative
2. "Lightning round" case studies of conservation work with EJ communities
 - Nick Black, Managing Director, The Trustees, Boston Waterfront Initiative on Piers Park 3 // Piers Park 3: Building Open Space Through Community Programming
 - Doug Cameron, Director and Chief Engineer, Office of Fishing and Boating Access, Department of Fish and Game // How to Get a Boating or Fishing Access Facility in your Community
 - Charlotte Hood, Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator, Berkshire Natural Resources Council // Community Conservation in Action
 - Jane Calvin, Executive Director, Lowell Parks and Conservation Trust // Pawtucket Farm – an Urban Oasis
 - Mark Wamsely, Conservation Director, Kestrel Land Trust // Revitalizing Parks – Reconnecting Neighborhoods
 - Mathew Cahill, DCR Community Action Forester // Talking Trees: Community Engagement in Environmental Justice Neighborhoods
3. Discussion: How might we all do more to engage in projects with EJ communities, and what are some best practices for that work?

- 12:30 – 1:15 p.m.** BYO lunch and optional short walk with Nipmuc leaders (walk limited to 20 people)
- 1:15 – 3:10 p.m.** Forests as Climate Solutions Initiative
- 1:15 – 1:35 Overview and Current Status of the Initiative by Kurt Gaertner, Assistant Secretary for Environmental Policy
- 1:40 – 2:10 Breakout Round 1: Input for workgroups on **Provision of Landowner Incentives and Business Assistance** and **Conservation of Forest Land and Expansion of Forest Reserves**
- 2:20 – 2:40 Breakout Round 2: Switch groups, continue discussion
- 2:50 – 3:10 Topline reports, next steps
- 3:10 – 3:30 p.m.** Break
- 3:30 – 4:30 p.m.** Conservation Trivia, led by Russ Cohen
- 4:30 p.m.** Departures
- 5:00 – 7:30 p.m.** Celebrate Bob O'Connor!

Join this optional gathering to recognize and celebrate our friend and colleague Bob O'Connor's many accomplishments and his retirement from state service.

Where: Davis Hall, 3 West Street in Petersham Center, next to the Unitarian Church (about 3 miles from Harvard Forest)

RSVP a.s.a.p. to kgaertner@comcast.net, so caterer gets an accurate number. State if you'd like a vegetarian meal, AND if you'd like to make remarks at the program.

Contribution of \$30 encouraged to support Bob's gift and the event.
[See here](#) for further details.

FRIDAY, October 6th (IN PERSON at Harvard Forest, Fisher Museum, Petersham AND via Zoom)
If attending via Zoom, pre-registration is [required here](#).

Focus: Increasing the Pace of Conservation

- 9:00 – 9:10 a.m.** Welcome and Introductions
- 9:10 – 9:40 a.m.** A brief success story: What has helped increase the pace of land conservation in Harwich? Mike Lach, Executive Director, Harwich Conservation Trust
- 9:40 - 10:20 a.m.** Discussion 1: How can we increase the pool of willing sellers?
- 10:20 - 10:35 a.m.** Break
- 10:35 - 11:20 a.m.** Discussion 2: How can we increase project management capacity?
- 11:15 a.m. - noon** Discussion 3: How do we meet the moment of an increase in farmland preservation funding?
- Noon -- End**