



METACOMET LAND TRUST

Annual Report and notice of the Annual Meeting & Program

**Thursday, May 15, 2014
6:30 p.m. Business Meeting
7:00 p.m. Program
First Universalist Society in Franklin
262 Chestnut Street, Franklin**

ROCK AND ROLL AND LAND PRESERVATION:

How WBCN Radio Helped Save the Blackstone Gorge

With Carter Alan, author of *Radio Free Boston*

In 1992, a unique and untouched stretch of the Blackstone River was at risk of development. Would it be sold for development or could it be saved? Through an unusual grassroots campaign that put Metacomet Land Trust on the airwaves of Boston's leading rock radio station, WBCN, funds were raised and this special place was preserved as a bi-state public park.

How did it happen? Come hear the story of how Metacomet enlisted the support of the on-air personalities at WBCN and helped save the land. Our guest is Carter Alan, former WBCN disk jockey and now Music Director at WZLX, who will share stories from his book, *Radio Free Boston*.

Coffee & desserts will be available.
This program is free and open to the public.
Donations gratefully appreciated!

OUR MISSION:

The Metacomet Land Trust is a non-profit conservation organization dedicated to the protection of open space and natural resources in the communities of South Central Massachusetts.

Mission statement approved in 1999 and re-affirmed April 25, 2002

The Metacomet Land Trust, PO Box 231, Franklin MA 02038
1-888-298-7284 www.metacometlandtrust.org

President's Message

Dear Members and Friends,

Grateful. It's the word that comes to mind when we reflect about the past and the future. This year has been one of challenges and demands that our Board of Directors has effectively worked through after careful research and deliberation. It is our mission to "protect" open space but it takes patience and determination to ensure that the best tools available to us and the land owner are applied and that our resources are used to their best advantage. Please thank our tireless *volunteer* board members for their dedication to land conservation.

A community that makes it a priority to preserve and protect open space is a healthier community. It says that protecting its biodiversity is a priority for its future, that providing open space to enjoy nature is critical to the quality of life it provides. It says that it is proactively acting on the future for its children.

Help us expand and enhance our ability to help our communities and landowners protect more conservation land. Joining the land trust, making a special donation, helping with a stewardship inspection or education program or advocating for a special property can all result in the protection of more open space for habitat and conservation.

Our land trust's strength is in its members and volunteers. I welcome the opportunity to talk with you about how you can participate in our future.

In conservation,

Lisa Mosczynski, President
508-341-4876



*A selection of the many plants and animals which our volunteers observe when visiting completed and proposed conservation projects:
from left, Rattlesnake Plantain, Spotted Salamander, and Sundew.*

Volunteer with Your Land Trust and See What We're Protecting!

Metacomet Land Trust Financial Report & 2013 Balance Sheet

ASSETS				
Current Assets				
Checking/Savings			12/31/2012	12/31/2013
Operating Checking			5,386.34	6,787.61
Money Market Account	2012	2013	58,660.89	97,987.59
<i>Temp Restricted & Board Designated funds</i>				
<i>Property Signage Fund</i>	10,000.00	10,000.00		
<i>Stewardship Expense Fund</i>	1,897.48	720.00		
<i>Educational Materials Fund</i>	777.50	599.71		
<i>Land Protection Funds</i>	5,000.00	5,000.00		
<i>Anonymous Grant for Conservation Project</i>		40,000.00		
Erik Anderberg Conservation Restriction Enforcement Fund			15,994.72	14,028.79
SNETT Special Projects			1,266.66	1,268.57
Lake Manchaug Projects			3,603.32	3,607.40
Upton Project Fund			7,496.36	2,118.14
Wrentham Land Preservation			4,421.05	4,427.68
	Total Checking/Savings		96,829.34	130,225.78
Accounts Receivable				
· Lease Fees Receivable			1,162.50	1,582.50
	Total Accounts Receivable		1,162.50	1,582.50
Other Current Assets				
· Prepaid Expenses			2,225.93	2,225.93
	Total Other Current Assets		2,225.93	2,225.93
	Total Current Assets		100,217.77	134,034.21
Fixed Assets				
· Equipment			1,842.56	9,562.56
· Accumulated Depreciation			(1,842.56)	(1,842.56)
· Land/Affordable House Lots			341,707.00	341,707.00
· Land Open Space			1,560,292.00	1,560,292.00
	Total Fixed Assets		1,901,999.00	1,909,719.00
	TOTAL ASSETS		2,002,216.77	2,043,753.21
LIABILITIES & EQUITY				
Equity				
- Retained Earnings				23,128.13
· Unrestricted Funds			104,504.37	104,504.37
· Temporarily Restricted			23,057.22	23,057.22
· Permanently Restricted			1,851,527.05	1,851,527.05
	Net Income		23,128.13	41,536.44
	Total Equity		2,002,216.77	2,043,753.21
	TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY		2,002,216.77	2,043,753.21

Minutes of the 2013 Annual Meeting of the Metacomet Land Trust

For approval at 2014 Annual Meeting

Metacomet Land Trust Annual Meeting

April 24, 2013

Uxbridge High School

Meeting called to order at 6:31 p.m. with 22 members present and 1 proxy vote.

Motion to accept the minutes of the 2012 Annual Meeting made by Tom Bik, 2nd by Larry Rettman and was unanimously approved.

Motion to accept the 2012 Balance Sheet as presented in the Annual Report was made by Tom Bik, 2nd by Larry Rettman and was unanimously approved.

Current Board of Director members Pat Nedoroscik, Susan Speers and Nick Bik all have expiring terms and all have agreed to run again to fill those terms. Russ Holden from Uxbridge has agreed to fill the three year term left vacant by Dianne Demarais. After no one else offered to run for the vacant terms Tom Bik made the motion to close the nominations and Larry Rettman 2nd, all approved. Tom Bik voted to nominate the proposed slate of candidates for election to the Board of Directors, Pat Nedoroscik 2nd, all approved.

There was no new business to report.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:36 p.m., motion made by Tom Bik, 2nd by Larry Rettman, all approved.

All present were invited to attend the feature program given by award winning photographer Brian Skerry.

Submitted by,
Laurie Salmon, Secretary

2013 Community Spirit Award

The Community Spirit Award is an annual award to citizen conservationists from one of the 14 Blackstone Valley towns the MLT serves. The 2013 award was presented to Bill Taylor and Marcella Stasa of Upton. Both serve on Upton's Open Space, Land Stewardship, and Green Communities committees and on the Friends of Upton State Forest Board of Directors. Marcella is also on the Upton Conservation Commission and Bill is a member of Upton Historical Society Board of Directors. They were instrumental in the preservation of Sweetwilliam Farm in Upton. With all that they do, both also volunteered to help MLT prepare the Smith Property conservation restriction baseline report.

Thank you, volunteers and members!

As always, thank you to all of our members who supported our conservation and education work in the past year with your dues and gifts.

Stephen Allen, Lincoln RI	Dick Lindstrom & Alyse Aubin, Sutton
Christie Anderberg, Brooksville FL	Bill Marland, Wrentham
Ellen & Russ Arnold, Upton	Anne & Cliff Matthews, Bellingham
Judy and Jim Baillio, Franklin	Brian & Anne Mazar, Mendon
CindyLee Barrett, Franklin	Leon & Shirley Moczynski, Douglas
Gene and Alisa Bernat, Upton	Lisa Moczynski, Douglas
Bruce and Karen Bertoni, Franklin	Donna Schaffer Mullin, Franklin
Nick & Margo Bik, Blackstone	Pat & Andy Nedoroscik, Manchaug
Tom & Donna Bik, Blackstone	Jeff Nutting, Franklin
Gino & Pandora Carlucci, Franklin	Paul and Karen O'Connell, Franklin
Russ Cohen, Boston	Mike Penko, Upton
Elynore Crothers, Franklin	Sue Perkins, Douglas
Tricia Diggins, Mendon	Rebecca & Michael Plasse, Cumberland RI
Cherie Donovan, Franklin	Kyle Pribish, Norfolk
Lori S. Fafard, Bellingham	Larry & Marge Rettman, Franklin
Jeanne Feola, Uxbridge	Laurie & DJ Salmon, III, Whitinsville
John D. & Ute Gannett, Jr., Mendon	Michael and Dawn Savaria, Franklin
Steve & Pam Gatewood, Franklin	Mark & Marilyn Sharp, Franklin
Stephen Greenwald, Upton	Shirley J. Smith, Mendon
John & Ann Hanscom, Uxbridge	Julie & Norman Soohoo, Franklin
Leo & Marj Immonen, Wrentham	Susan & Buzz Speers, Franklin
John & Lisa Kilroe, Franklin	Marcella Stasa and Bill Taylor, Upton
Paul Knapik, Douglas	Dr. David Tapscott, Uxbridge
David Labonte, Franklin	Unitarian Universalist Society of Grafton/Upton, Grafton
Carolyn Letvin, Milford	Karen Webber and John Sheehan, Sutton



METACOMET LAND • TRUST

*26 Years of Service to
Landowners & Communities
1988 - 2014*

About your Land Trust

The Metacomet Land Trust is governed by a Board of Directors elected by our members to three year terms. Our Board of Directors includes representatives from towns throughout the service area, each of whom brings years of experience in local conservation and planning. You are welcome at all Board meetings; please email us to receive advance notice.

From our creation in 1988, MLT board members have provided key support and technical assistance for a variety of state and community projects, such as planning for the Southern New England Trunkline Trail (SNETT), a rail trail which stretches from the Franklin State Forest to the Douglas State Forest, planning for the Providence to Worcester Bikeway, securing a trail easement from the Whitinsville Water Company for land contiguous to the Lake Manchaug Greenway and Wildlife Corridor in Sutton, and providing assistance to the Open Space Committees and Conservation Commissioners in our region. Our Board frequently assists communities with conservation easements, other land preservation projects, workshops and educational events.

Members of the Board of Directors serve three year terms. Current members are:

President - Lisa Mosczynski, Douglas	(term expires 2014)*
Vice-President - Patricia Nedoroscik, Sutton	(term expires 2016)
Acting Treasurer - Susan Speers, Franklin	(term expires 2016)
Secretary - Laurie Salmon, Northbridge	(term expires 2014)*
Nicholas Bik, Blackstone	(term expires 2016)
Tom Bik, Blackstone	(term expires 2015)
Russell Holden, Uxbridge	(term expires 2016)
Mike Penko, Upton	(term expires 2015)
Kyle Pribish, Norfolk	(term expires 2015)**
Larry Rettman, Franklin	(term expires 2014)*
Paul Knapik, Uxbridge	(term expires 2015)
Gary Smith, Mendon	(term expires 2015)

Three positions are currently open. Please consider volunteering! The Board of Directors encourages you to be an active member of the organization, sharing your skills by assisting with site visits and annual inspections of our properties, helping with programs or suggesting programs or topics which would be of interest to our members. Please contact us and let us know how you can help!

* Members with terms expiring.

** Kyle Pribish was elected by the Board to a vacancy in the fall of 2013.

PROPERTIES IN WHICH METACOMET LAND TRUST HOLDS AN INTEREST

As of December, 2013

LAND: Our total open land acreage currently stands at 366 acres.

- ❖ 10.5 acres off Dawn Marie Circle, Franklin: conservation land.
- ❖ 41.8 acres off Lincoln Street, Franklin: within Franklin Woods open space subdivision.
- ❖ 1.75 acres, Coronation Drive, Franklin: outdoor classroom used by Kennedy Elementary School. Dedicated to Alfred S. Ferguson in May 2000.
- ❖ 3.2 acres, Central Turnpike, Sutton: conservation area.
- ❖ 130 acres, Hopp Brook Conservation Area, Mendon Street, Blackstone: The land trust owns extensive woodland for open space and trails originally donated by Doris Daniels King in 1998. A permanent conservation restriction to the Mass Department of Fish and Game controls the use of the vast majority of this property and allows for future construction of an educational center and office. A three acre lot to the south on Mendon Street is owned by the land trust and not included in the Conservation Restriction.
- ❖ 126.9 acres off Chase Road in Sutton and Millbury: conservation land donated by Mr. Henry Boria.
- ❖ 6.5 acres on Putnam Hill Road, Sutton, donated by James and Marina Gvazdauskas, January 2001: conservation area.
- ❖ 9 acres on Manchaug Road in Sutton, donated by Otco, Inc. in November, 2001: conservation land.
- ❖ 6 acres off Manchaug Road in Sutton, donated by John & Donna Couture, 2002: conservation land
- ❖ 12.8 acres known as the Reid Memorial Conservation Area, on Daniels Street in Franklin, a bequest from Mr. Arthur D. Nelson to honor his wife, Gwendolyn Reid Nelson
- ❖ 9 acres on Manchaug Road in Sutton donated by Robert Ferragamo and Gretchen Richards 2010.

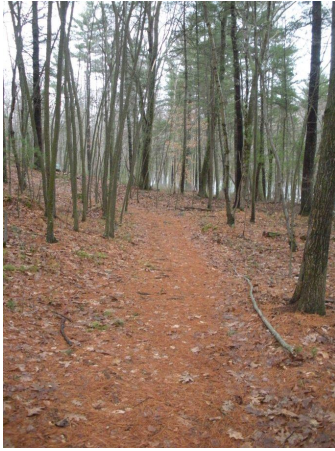
CONSERVATION RESTRICTIONS: total acreage under permanent restriction is 190 acres

Note that these properties are **privately owned** and their future development is restricted according to their agreements with Metacomet and the Commonwealth.

- ❖ 27 acres at the Hancock Christmas Tree Farm, 508 Hancock Street, Wrentham, donated by Bill and Joyce Marland
- ❖ 11.7 acres on Charles River, off Plymouth Road, Bellingham: owned by the Bellingham Conservation Commission
- ❖ 62 acres, Chestnut Street, Upton: owned by the Bernat family
- ❖ 27 acres, Fox Fire Farm, Hazel Street, Uxbridge, owned by the Hanscom family
- ❖ 35 acres, Dan Griffiths property, Sutton, now owned by the Vincequere family
- ❖ 13.6 acres, Laurel Brook, New England Forestry Foundation, Uxbridge
- ❖ 14 acres, Shirley Smith property, Mendon

7 AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROPERTIES: House lots in Franklin owned by Metacomet Land Trust and leased to owners of affordable homes on each parcel, total acreage 4.8 acres: 61 Lewis Street, 195 School Street, 891 Lincoln Street, 608 Maple Street, 4 Rolling Ridge Road, 809 Summer Street and 813 Summer Street

* * *



Stewardship Report

(Tom Bik, Paul Knapik and Mike Penko)

In 2013 Metacomet board members visited all properties protected by conservation restrictions. We also collected information needed for a baseline report for the Paddock property conservation restriction in Mendon. To assist with our stewardship work, Metacomet acquired a Trimble XT GPS unit and GIS software. Planning continued for a parking area at the Hopp Brook Preserve in Blackstone.

Photo: Private Conservation Land in Upton

Education & Outreach Committee

(Pat Nedoroscik and Laurie Salmon)

In 2013 Education and Outreach Committee members once again partnered with Ranger Kathryn Parent and held a series of education programs at River Bend Farm in Uxbridge, Ma. A local Girl Scout group attended a program to work on a badge and we brightened up a rainy day by making butterflies. The kindergarten class from Whitinsville Christian School joined us as we learned how important trees are to people. We also took our program on the road when we visited the preschool class at Beaumont in Northbridge to talk about pollution. In 2014 we will once again be working with Ranger Parent at River Bend Farm to assist and enhance the Story Hour sessions there.



Top: Children learning from Ranger Kathryn

Bottom: Preschool Butterfly Crafts



Each year, exciting things happen in the natural world as spring comes to Massachusetts. Lots of bird species are returning to the area including phoebes and sparrows. By the end of the month barn swallows, chimney swifts and house wrens will be back as well. Keep on the lookout for Baltimore orioles, American kestrels and eastern whip-poor-will which have been on the decline in Massachusetts in recent years.

Spring peepers will be serenading us and soon we should hear the trill of toads from local swamps and wetlands. Woodland wildflowers like columbine and white shadbush will be blooming before the trees start leafing out. It is a great time to get outside and explore the natural spaces around us.

Conservation Projects Status Report

(Board of Directors)

As the land trust serving 14 towns in South Central Massachusetts, the majority of the Board's time and effort is devoted to the conservation projects we have been asked to undertake by municipalities and state agencies, property owners, and concerned citizens. In the "pipeline" currently, we are actively working on planned and potential conservation donations and restrictions in the following communities:

- Blackstone: municipal purchase of land abutting 35 acres of land-locked town owned land and the Hopp Brook Woodland; public comments on the Blackstone River Greenway
- Mendon: conservation restrictions for parcels purchased with Community Preservation Act financing; possible donation of land
- Norfolk: conservation planning for the former Norfolk Airport
- Northbridge: a potential conservation restriction for land along the Blackstone River
- Sutton: Support for the Commonwealth's Department of Conservation and Recreation to add approximately 60 acres of property to the Sutton State Forest/Lake Manchaug Greenway and Wildlife Corridor
- Upton: a potential land donation; a potential conservation restriction on a parcel purchased with Community Preservation Act funds; completion of the Whitney Conservation Area parking area with funds raised in 2012 with the help of MLT.
- Uxbridge: a conservation restriction for land at the Uxbridge High School

We hope this summary gives you the flavor of the work we are doing. If you would like to become more involved, please contact any member of the Board or email us at metacometLT@gmail.com

Upcoming Events: In addition to the Annual Meeting on May 15th, please join us for the following activities:

Forest Walk, Douglas: Interested in how to best manage your woodlot? You are invited to a site walk with a professional forester on the Moczynski woodlot at 60 Oak Street in Douglas at 2 p.m. on Saturday, May 3rd. For details and to RSVP, please email Lisa Moczynski at lmoczynski@hotmail.com.

Stone Walls of New England, Upton State Forest, Sunday, May 4th: Robert Thorsen will speak from 10:00 a.m. to Noon at VFW Post 5594, 15 Milford Street, Upton. An afternoon field session is available, first come first served to those who pre-register on April 15th. This program is free and open to all. Reservations are not required for the morning session. Space is limited for the field trip so you will need to pre-register for that. Registration will begin on April 15 until full. If we reach our limit, we will give priority to those that attended the morning session. Don't forget water, sunscreen, and insect repellent. Please leave pets at home. A liability waiver is required for the field trip. To pre-register, send an email on April 15 or after to uptonopenspaceevents@charter.net. This event is co-sponsored by the Friends of the Upton State Forest, Upton Open Space Committee, Upton Cultural Council, and Metacomet.

For the latest news and announcements please update your email for our records with a quick email to MetacometLandTrust@gmail.com

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter @MetacometLandTr!

Have you renewed your membership for 2014?

Your dues and donations help us to continue our work of land preservation, conservation, and environmental education.

**To join or renew your membership in the land trust, please fill in below and mail to
Metacomet Land Trust, P.O. Box 231, Franklin, MA 02038**

Friend	\$ 25.00	_____
Steward	\$ 50.00	_____
Naturalist	\$ 100.00	_____
Forester	\$ 250.00	_____
Protector	\$ 500.00	_____
Other		_____

I would like to make an additional gift to the Metacomet Land Trust. Please apply my gift towards:

The Erik Anderberg Stewardship fund _____ As needed _____

Other (please specify) _____

NAME(S): _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE _____ EMAIL: _____

Metacomet Land Trust is a 501c3 nonprofit.

All gifts are tax deductible to the extent permitted by Federal and State regulations.

**If you would like to discuss a bequest to Metacomet Land Trust,
please call Board President Lisa Mosczynski at (888) 298-7284.**

Would you like to volunteer?

We depend on volunteers to make sure that conservation and land stewardship happen in our communities. Many hours of work happen “behind the scenes” to place a conservation restriction on a property and many more hours are invested in the stewardship of that property. We also have an outreach committee that works throughout the year to educate land owners and the general public about land conservation opportunities. Would you like to help out? Reach the Stewardship Committee through Mike Penko at mpenko@charter.net or the Education & Outreach Committee through Laurie Salmon at salmon_laurie@yahoo.com or call our toll free number at (888) 298-7284 to find out how you can make a difference!

Proxy Vote:

If you are not able to attend the annual meeting, you may fill out and return this portion as your proxy ballot. This will count toward the required quorum of 20 voting members or 20% of all dues paying members (whichever is larger). Your proxy instructs Lisa Moczynski, President, or Patricia Nedoroscik, Vice President, to cast your vote in the election of board members, the approval of last year's meeting minutes, and approval of this year's Annual Report.

METACOMET LAND TRUST 2014 ANNUAL MEETING MEMBER PROXY

I authorize MLT Board President Lisa Moczynski or Vice President Pat Nedoroscik to exercise my vote at the 2014 Annual Meeting for the ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBERS, APPROVAL OF 2013 MEETING MINUTES, and APPROVAL OF THE 2014 ANNUAL REPORT.

NAME/S: _____

DATE: _____

Please mail your proxy to **Metacomet Land Trust, PO Box 231, Franklin, MA 02038**
to arrive by **Wednesday, May 14, 2014.**

ROCK & ROLL AND LAND PRESERVATION:
How WBCN Radio Helped Save the Blackstone Gorge
Carter Alan author of *Radio Free Boston*
in Franklin for Metacomet Land Trust Annual Meeting
Thursday, May 15 at 6:30 p.m.
First Universalist Society in Franklin, 262 Chestnut Street



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P.O. Box 231
Franklin, MA 02038