METACOMET
LAND TRUST

Annual Meeting and Program
Thursday, May 11, 2017
6:30 p.m. Annual Meeting
7:00 p.m. Community Spirit Award Presentation & Program

Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School's
Café Annex
65 Pleasant St, Upton, MA 01568

Guest Speaker: Robin Organ, Executive Director Project Green Schools

Project Green Schools is an organization dedicated to promoting environmental literacy and stewardship among children in grades 2 – 12. From the National Green Schools Society to partnering with Planet Aid, Robin Organ, its executive director and founder, has developed national and international programs committed to mentoring the environmental leadership of our future.

She is a leading advocate of innovative Environmental Education, E-STEM Education, Leadership, and Action! Robin has participated in several White House Summits and was honored to join President Obama and the former First Lady for the arrival ceremony of Pope Francis, a hero of hers. Recently, Robin was excited to launch the Green Up New England Challenge with the Boston Bruins, the Boston Bruins Foundation and Walmart. **www.projectgreenschools.org**

Join us as we learn more from Robin about these exciting programs!

Light refreshments provided.

For more information, call us at 888-298-7284

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

2017 ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

6:30 p.m.

I. Meeting called to order
II. 2016 Annual Meeting Minutes Accepted
III. 2016 Annual Report and Financial Statement Accepted
IV. Election of Board of Directors
V. Adjourn

Annual Membership Meeting Minutes
May 18, 2016
6:30 p.m. at the Stony Brook Wildlife Sanctuary, Norfolk, MA

With a quorum present, Lisa Mosczynski called the meeting to order at a 6:35 p.m.
Members and non-members in attendance: 24

Motion to approve the 2015 Annual Meeting minutes by Tom Bik, Larry Rettman second. Approved
Motion to approve the Financial Report by Tom Bik, Larry Rettman second. Motion Approved

Election of Board of Directors

Terms Expiring: Susan Speers, Nick Bik, and Patricia Nedoroscik terms are expiring. Nedoroscik expressed that she does not wish to run for re-election. Motion to re-elect Susan Speers, and Nick Bik by Tom Bik, Larry Rettman second. Motion Approved
A request was made for volunteers to serve on the Board of Directors. Terry Baurley of Norfolk, MA volunteered to serve. Motion to close nominations by Tom Bik, Larry Rettman second. Approved
Motion to elect Terry Baurley to Board of Directors by Tom Bik, Susan Speers second. Approved

Affordable Housing Statements

Motion to approve resolution as written regarding 813 Summer Street by Ann Hanscom, Susan Speers second. Approved
Motion to approve resolution as written regarding 195 School Street by Ann Hanscom, Bill Taylor second. Approved
Motion to adjourn Annual Member Meeting by Tom Bik, Larry Rettman second. Approved. Meeting adjourned at 6:46 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Patrice Murphy

We had a great turnout at our "Beecology" workshop hosted by board member Ann Hanscom at her Foxfire Farm last June. Worcester Polytechnic Institute Professor Robert J. Gegear, head of Worcester Polytechnic Institute's *Pollinator Neuroecology and Conservation Laboratory* shared his work on bumble bees and how we depend on them as pollinators. This workshop helped folks learn to identify bumble bees in the field and they learned how best to encourage and protect them, too!

For more information on Professor Gegear's lab and program, visit the Gegear Laboratory at WPI.edu.

2017 ANNUAL REPORT
President's Message

Dear Members and Friends,

As a non-profit organization we have often struggled with the question of how we should tell "our story" the story of a land trust. After all, we have many different properties with wonderful stories of their own and many members who have conservation stories to share. How the land trust came to be is a story. And then, at our board retreat earlier this year, we found a way to talk to anyone who asks: Why are you members of Metacomet? Why do you invest your time as volunteers with a conservation organization? The answer is simply: "**We love where we live.**"

Please read Ann's story below that she first shared it at a land owner's workshop earlier this year. Ann now also serves on our Board of Director's and she uses each and every day to learn more about her amazing property because she loves where she lives and she made permanent plans to keep it that way.

In conservation,

Lisa Mosczynski
President

Ann's Story

In childhood, I learned the value of air and water, and know that they are finite; I played in the dirt, fished and swam in clean lakes and rivers. In 1990, my husband John and I bought our farm in Uxbridge. We loved its river and woods, its meadows and wildlife, its weather and soil. In 2000, my husband John sold his company. This presented us with a fiscal opportunity: reduce tax obligations while legally protecting our property with a Conservation Restriction (and, yes, fiscal considerations ARE important!).

First, we contacted The Trustees of Reservations, who advised us to think locally and work with Metacomet Land Trust. This turned out to be great advice! Susan Speers (our especially helpful liaison), led us through the necessary consideration of both legalities and personal wishes. An important footnote here, is the recognition of how much time it can take to orchestrate a CR; a wise land owner gathers information and makes plans sooner rather than later.

Having the CR has enabled me to study in depth, social and environmental issues germane to my life, and the lives of others, enlarging my understanding of how the planet works.

Ann Hanscom, Foxfire Farm, Uxbridge

We had much to protect: almost 30 acres of second-growth woods (with a few legacy trees from the 1700's); a pristine section of Cold Spring Brook (source of native Brook Trout); richly diverse habitat for both flora and fauna; a historically significant dwelling (built in 1737), AND un-desecrated topsoil. Creating the CR helped us prioritize our goals, examine what was most valued, accept legal parameters, and make (we hoped) wise choices.

We felt, and still feel, satisfied with our decision to protect our property for our time here, as well as for the future; satisfied also for having worked with a land trust as opposed to a public institution. Having the CR has enabled me to study in depth, social and environmental issues germane to my life, and the lives of others, enlarging my understanding of how the planet works. Having the CR feels like an answered question; like a settled issue; like a comforting finality.

2016 Community Spirit Award

The Community Spirit Award is an annual award to citizen conservationists from one of the 15 Blackstone Valley towns Metacomet now serves. At the annual meeting the 2016 award was presented to MLT Board member and Vice President Kyle Pribish in recognition of her efforts to preserve the Norfolk Airport. Congratulations, Kyle!

Charles River Meadowlands Update

Progress continues with the "Charles River Meadowlands" initiative that would serve to both highlight protected local natural resources in the region by increasing recreational opportunities while simultaneously guaranteeing public access and awareness. We continue to support this great project and expanding access to the 465 acres owned and managed by the Army Corps of Engineers as well as the additional 334 acres in Bellingham and 52 acres in Medway. Alan Earls of Franklin is the volunteer coordinator who sees the project expanding outwards to become a regional epicenter for passive recreation including hiking, walking, cross-country skiing, fishing, canoeing, kayaking and nature study.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is soliciting public comment on an update to its management plan for the protected wetlands in the upper Charles River Watershed. On **Wednesday, April 19th**, there will be a public meeting about the draft plan at the **Millis Public Library, starting at 5:00 p.m.**

Copies of the draft plan have been made available to the Charles River Meadowlands Initiative and to Metacomet Land Trust. If you would like to comment, we suggest that you request an electronic copy from Marie Esten at Marie.E.Esten@usace.army.mil. Telephone 978-318-8965

Upcoming Events!

Earth Day is Saturday, April 22nd
We urge you to make Earth Day every day!

Sunday, April 23rd

Showings at 10:00 a.m.; 11:30; 1:00 and 2:00 p.m.
MLT and Mass Audubon's Stony Brook Wildlife Sanctuary invite you to a free Earth Day showing of **Green Fire the story of conservationist Aldo Leopold** at Stony Brook. The address is 108 North Street, Norfolk. There will be time for discussion after this acclaimed one hour film. Don't miss it!

Noon. Metacomet will co-sponsor a hike through protected open space in Mendon to see the amazing **life in a vernal pool**. This two-mile walk will be led by wetlands expert Jennifer Carlino. Jennifer is the long-time conservation agent in Norton and president of the Mass Society of Municipal Conservation Professionals. This event is sponsored in conjunction with Mendon's 350th Anniversary Celebrations. Registration is limited. Please visit www.mendon350.com/trail-walks to register and for more information.

Visit **MetacometLandTrust.org** for more information about all of our upcoming events!

Metacomet Land Trust, Inc.
Balance Sheet
As of December 31, 2016

	Dec 31, 16
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
10000 · Operating Checking #5493	8,555.93
10100 · Money Market Account #4609	87,792.05
10105 · CR Protection Endowment #2311	26,843.97
10107 · MLT- CD #1294	10,176.40
10110 · SNETT Special Projects #5492	1,273.47
10115 · Lake Manchaug Projects #6119	3,617.44
10120 · Upton Project Fund #6620	2,805.40
Total Checking/Savings	141,064.66
Accounts Receivable	
11000 · Lease Fees Receivable	280.00
Total Accounts Receivable	280.00
Other Current Assets	
12000 · Undeposited Funds	-60.00
14000 · Prepaid Expenses	2,225.93
Total Other Current Assets	2,165.93
Total Current Assets	143,510.59
Fixed Assets	
15100 · Equipment	9,562.56
15900 · Accumulated Depreciation	-9,562.56
16500 · Land/Affordable House Lots	341,707.00
16900 · Land Open Space	1,560,292.00
Total Fixed Assets	1,901,999.00
TOTAL ASSETS	**2,045,509.59**
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Equity	
39005 · Retained Earnings	64,205.05
39200 · Unrestricted Funds-002	104,504.37
39300 · Temporarily Restricted	23,057.22
39400 · Permanently Restricted	1,851,527.05
Net Income	2,215.90
Total Equity	2,045,509.59
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	**2,045,509.59**

Metacomet Land Trust Board of Directors

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. Board members frequently assist communities and private land owners 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 2017)*
Vice-President - Kyle Pribish, Norfolk	(term expires 2018)
Treasurer - Susan Speers, Franklin	(term expires 2019)
Secretary - Patrice Murphy, Mendon	(term expires 2018)
Nicholas Bik, Blackstone	(term expires 2019)
Tom Bik, Blackstone	(term expires 2018)**
Terry Baurley, Norfolk	(term expires 2019)
Larry Rettman, Franklin	(term expires 2017)* **
Russell Holden, Uxbridge	(term expires 2019)
Mike Penko, Upton	(term expires 2018)
Anne Hanscom, Uxbridge	(term expires 2017)*

Four 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. ** Founding member.

Please Volunteer:

We need your help! The land trust depends on the generosity and spirit of volunteers to educate young and old about the environment around us and to conduct due diligence to file reports, conduct stewardship inspections, write grants and to offer workshops and events that "show and tell" what we do! We especially need volunteers for our education workshops so we can reach more young people with our message so they, too, will "Love where we live!" Please use the form at the end of this report, e-mail us at metacometlt@gmail.com or call us at 888-298-7284.

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Like us on Facebook. Check out the great information on our web site at www.metacometlandtrust.org, e-mail us at metacometlt@gmail.com or call us at 888-298-7284.

Join us!

PROPERTIES IN WHICH METACOMET LAND TRUST HOLDS AN INTEREST

As of December, 2016

LAND: Our total open land acreage currently stands at 412 acres.

- 10.5 acres off Dawn Marie Circle, Franklin
- 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
- 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 donated by Mr. Henry Boria
- 6.5 acres on Putnam Hill Road, Sutton, donated by James and Marina Gvazdauskas
- 9 acres on Manchaug Road in Sutton, donated by Otco, Inc.
- 6 acres off Manchaug Road in Sutton, donated by John & Donna Couture
- 12.8 acres known as the Reid Memorial Conservation Area, on Daniels Street in Franklin in 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
- ½ interest in land off Putnam Hill Road in Sutton consisting of 6 acres donated by Robert Nunnemacher
- ½ interest in land off Mendon Road in Sutton consisting of 14 acres donated by Marie Linder
- 26 acres in Upton known as the Ruguleiski Woods donated by the Collier and Ruguleiski families

CONSERVATION RESTRICTIONS: total acreage under permanent restriction is 338 acres

Note that some of 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, Foxfire 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
- 147 acres Muddy Brook North, Muddy Brook South & Meadow Brook Uplands, Mendon
- 4.7 acres across from Mass Audubon's Stony Brook Wildlife Sanctuary and donated by Mass Audubon in 2015, Norfolk

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

Welcome Hopedale and Webster!

In 2016 we added the town of Hopedale to our service area and we would be pleased to assist with any open space and preservation projects there. In early 2017, the Board of Directors voted to also extend our services to the Town of Webster to help with open space and conservation efforts there as well.

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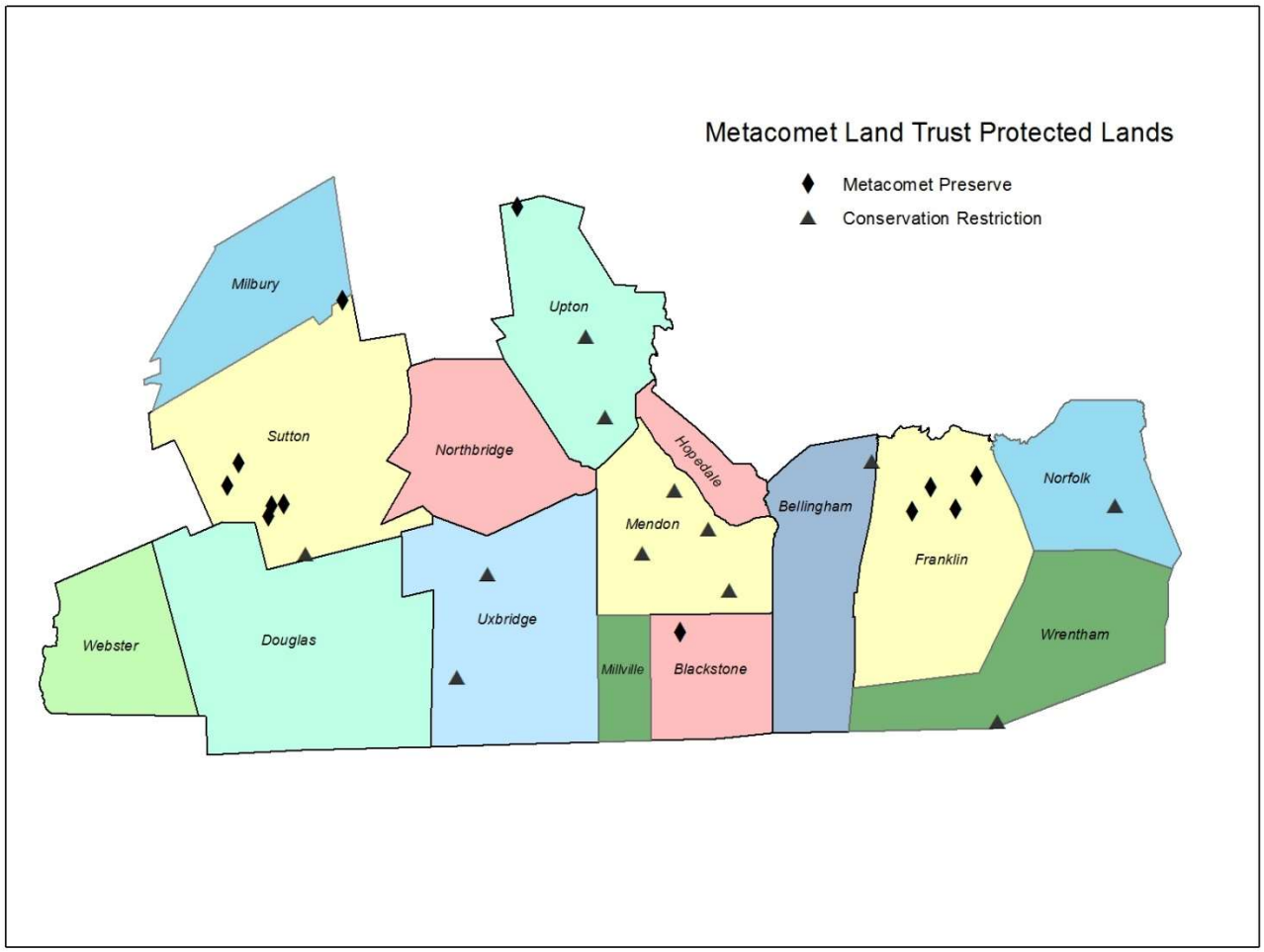
We're here to help. If you are a landowner looking to preserve and protect your property, please give us a call and we'll be glad to work with you. We can partner with you, suggest where you can find professionals and resources to guide you and answer questions you might have.

If you're a community activist who knows of special property that should be protected in the towns we work in, please give us a call. We are happy to have a conversation to determine the best way we might work together!



Communities served by the Metacomet Land Trust

Land Protection

Ruguleiski Woods, Upton

Dorothy Collier and other members of the Ruguleiski family donated 26 acres of open space in Upton (pictured above) to the land trust in 2016. The property, known as "Ruguleiski Woods," will be owned by MLT and protected by a permanent conservation restriction to be held by the Upton Conservation Commission. The property is located near the Massachusetts Turnpike is mostly upland forested with oaks. It also includes a red maple wetland, a cattail pond and a beaver pond. As directed by the Ruguleiski family, the property will be preserved for wildlife habitat and not logged. Ruguleiski Woods is one of two properties conserved by MLT in Upton and several other MLT land protection efforts are underway, including a conservation restriction to be held on Upton's Heritage Park.

We're here to help you conserve the land you love

Whether you are a private land owner, a municipality or a concerned citizen, Metacomet Land Trust is here to help you. Please visit our web site at www.metacometlandtrust.org for resources and events. Request a copy of **Your Land, Your Legacy** from us or download the pdf from masswoods.net for great information to get you started.

"I have been active in open space related issues in the Franklin area for almost 20 years, initially as a member of the town's Open Space Committee, later as an early participant in development of the SNETT rail trail, and more recently working to enhance public access to Army Corps of Engineers land. At every juncture, Metacomet has been a great source of advice and encouragement and has often been ready to consider cooperative ventures. Metacomet is one of the region's treasures."

— Alan Earls, Franklin, MA

Metacomet News and Notes

Education and Outreach

Members of the Education and Outreach Committee continued to partner with Kathryn Parent of the Department of Conservation and Recreation assisting at the Friday morning “Story Hour” programs throughout the summer at River Bend Farm in Uxbridge. For the 8th consecutive year board members Patricia Nedoroscik and Laurie Salmon coordinated with Ms. Parent to create and deliver age appropriate environment focused workshops.

Each event consisted of a few stories, a walk and a craft...we explored butterflies, turtles, insects, birds and the importance of trees. In addition, last Spring Pat and Laurie conducted the first grade field trip for Whitinsville Christian School. It was on Pond Life. They helped the kids explore pond water samples and looked for microscopic life. They did a demonstration on water pollution and ran the popular "fish printing" operation where the kids used rubber fish molds to make prints. This past Fall they also conducted the kindergarten field trip for the Whitinsville Christian School which took place at River Bend and their students explored trees. In March, the education team once again volunteered for the Maple Sugaring Weekend at River Bend. All in all it was a great year with tons of kids learning about the outdoors!

Mrs. Nedoroscik also facilitated the partnership between the National Park Service and the Whitin School in Uxbridge. Through that partnership 3 classes of kids learned about the importance of National Parks...including the one in their backyard...and earned their Junior Ranger Badges!

Thank you, Pat and Laurie, for training our youngest environmentalists!

Watch our website and e-newsletters for information on the 2017 programs. If you would like to help create and produce programs like this, please send an e-mail to metacometlt@gmail.com today!

Stewardship

Metacomet holds conservation restrictions on 11 properties in 7 towns. Our obligation requires us to visit and inspect each one and all of these properties were visited in 2016. Metacomet also finalized a forest stewardship plan for the Hop Brook Preserve in Blackstone in 2016 and the 10 year plan proposes converting several acres of forest to early successional habitat. Selective logging on about 35 acres of the 130 acre property will also be done. The plan also includes construction of a driveway, public parking area, and a trail system for public use.

Help us continue our conservation work for the next generation!

Have you renewed your membership for 2017? 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 _____

Metacomet Land Conservation Fund _____

Other (please specify) _____

NAME(S):_____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE _____ EMAIL:_____

_____Yes! I am interested in volunteering!

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 Mosczynski, President, or Kyle Pribish, Vice President, to act on your behalf.

METACOMET LAND TRUST 2017 ANNUAL MEETING MEMBER PROXY

I authorize MLT Board President Lisa Mosczynski or Vice President Kyle Pribish to exercise my vote at the 2017 Annual Meeting for the ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBERS, APPROVAL OF 2016 MEETING MINUTES, APPROVAL OF THE 2017 ANNUAL REPORT and any MOTIONS that come before membership.

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

Please mail your proxy to Metacomet Land Trust, PO Box 231, Franklin, MA 02038 to arrive no later than **Monday, May 8, 2017**.

"Nature holds the key to our aesthetic, intellectual, cognitive and even spiritual satisfaction."

– Edward O. Wilson

Metacomet Land Trust
P.O. Box 231
Franklin, MA 02038

Annual Report & Membership Info Inside!