METACOMET
LAND TRUST

Annual Meeting and Program
Sunday, April 8, 2018
1:30 p.m. Annual Meeting
2:00 p.m. Community Spirit Award Presentation & Silent Auction
Douglas Municipal Center Resource Room
29 Depot Street, Douglas, MA 01516

Guest Speaker: Mike Bald, Invasive Plant Expert and Owner of *GotWeeds?*

Mike Bald pictured here wrestiling a giant parsnip (caution: giant parsnip sap can cause severe burns)

Struggling with the inexorable march of invasive plant species invading your garden, stone walls and open space?

Curious to know their origins and what can realistically be done about them?

Mike Bald founded his company, *Got Weeds?* to offer non-chemical weed management options to landowners in central Vermont and beyond. His focus is on long-term site stewardship, soil health, and native plant diversity. Bald seeks to integrate the worlds of invasive species, youth education, organic farming and soil health, and sustainable operations.

For more information, call us at 508-271-7131

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

2018 ANNUAL REPORT
President's Message

Greetings Metacomet members and friends!

It is with great pride that we announce that our land trust has grown to own 450 acres and to hold the conservation restrictions on 338 acres! We are celebrating our 30th anniversary this year and we expect to see those numbers grow. We find some solace in knowing that we have conservation land to enjoy and to protect in perpetuity. The environmental issues we face are daunting but working to protect and preserve some small corner of our universe is comforting and empowering.

I want to take this opportunity to invite you to participate in any and all activities that we are planning in celebration of our milestone. Whether it's a walk, a hike, an author reading or a full moon paddle, help us make this a special year. Please continue to support the trust, to do what you can to help our open spaces remain open and biologically diverse for the generations to come.

In conservation,

Lisa Mosczynski
President

2018 ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

I. Meeting called to order
II. 2017 Annual Meeting Minutes Accepted
III. 2017 Annual Report and Financial Statement Accepted
IV. Election of Board of Directors
V. Adjourn

2017 Annual Meeting Minutes

May 11, 2017

6:30 p.m. at the Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School in Upton, MA

With a quorum present, Lisa Mosczynski called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. Motion to approve the 2016 Annual Meeting minutes by Tom Bik, Larry Rettman second. Approved. Motion to approve the Annual Report and the Financial Report by Tom Bik, Larry Rettman second. Approved.

Election of Board of Directors
Terms Expiring: Lisa Mosczynski, Larry Rettman and Ann Hanscom. Motion to re-elect Lisa Mosczynski, Larry Rettman and Ann Hanscom by Tom Bik, Susan Speers second.
Motion approved.

A request was made for volunteers to serve on the Board of Directors. Michael Rodrigues of Millville volunteered to serve. Motion to close nominations by Tom Bik, Larry Rettman second. Motion approved.

Motion to elect Michael Rodriguez to the Board of Directors by Tom Bik, Susan Speers second. Motion approved.

Motion to adjourn Annual Meeting was made by Tom Bik, Larry Rettman seconded. Motion approved. Meeting adjourned at 6:48 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Patrice Murphy

Metacomet Land Trust, Inc.
Statement of Financial Position
As of December 31, 2017

	Total	
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Bank Accounts		
10000 Operating Checking	2,901.75	
10100 Money Market Account	122,794.44	
10105 CR Protection & Stewardship Money Market	22,161.41	
10107 CR Protection CD	10,295.58	
10110 SNETT Special Projects Fund	1,274.74	
10115 Lake Manchaug Wildlife Corridor Fund	3,642.01	
10120 Whitney Trail, Upton Project Fund	2,307.97	
Total Bank Accounts	**$**	**165,377.90**
Accounts Receivable		
11000 Lease Fees Receivable	465.00	
11100 Grants Receivable	0.00	
Total Accounts Receivable	**$**	**465.00**
Other Current Assets		
12000 Undeposited Funds	-60.00	
14000 Prepaid Expenses	2,225.93	
Total Other Current Assets	**$**	**2,165.93**
Total Current Assets	**$**	**168,008.83**
Fixed Assets	4,331.86	
15000 Furniture and Fixtures	0.00	
15100 Equipment	9,562.56	
15900 Accumulated Depreciation	-9,562.56	
16500 Land/Affordable House Lots	341,707.00	
16900 Land Open Space	3,027,092.00	
17000 Land Held Temporarily	0.00	
Total Fixed Assets	**$**	**3,368,799.00**
TOTAL ASSETS	**$**	**3,536,807.83**
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY		
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable		
20000 Accounts Payable	0.00	
Contributions-Perm Restrict-AP*	0.00	
Total Accounts Payable	**$**	**0.00**
Other Current Liabilities		
23000 Accrued Expenses	0.00	
27000 Land Held Temp Due to MA DEM	0.00	
Total Other Current Liabilities	**$**	**0.00**
Total Current Liabilities	**$**	**0.00**
Total Liabilities	**$**	**0.00**
Equity		
31950 Land Donation	0.00	
39005 Retained Earnings	263,281.88	
39200 Unrestricted Funds-002	104,504.37	
39210 Unrestricted Real Estate	0.00	
39300 Temporarily Restricted	23,057.22	
39400 Permanently Restricted	3,121,527.05	
Net Revenue	24,437.31	
Total Equity	**$**	**3,536,807.83**
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	**$**	**3,536,807.83**

Financials for 2017 will be reviewed by MLT Accountant in 2018

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 2020)
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)* **
Larry Rettman, Franklin	(term expires 2020)**
Michael Rodriguez, Millville	(term expires 2020)
Doug Williams, Norfolk	(term expires 2019)
Russell Holden, Uxbridge	(term expires 2019)
Mike Penko, Upton	(term expires 2018)*
Anne Hanscom, Uxbridge	(term expires 2020)

Four positions are also 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.

We love where we live! 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 508-271-7131.

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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 508-271-7131.

Join us!

PROPERTIES IN WHICH METACOMET LAND TRUST HOLDS AN INTEREST

As of December, 2017

LAND: Our total open land acreage currently stands at 450 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
- 38 acres in Sutton on Stevens Pond donated by Sutton Development Trust

CONSERVATION RESTRICTIONS: total acreage under permanent restriction is 338 acres

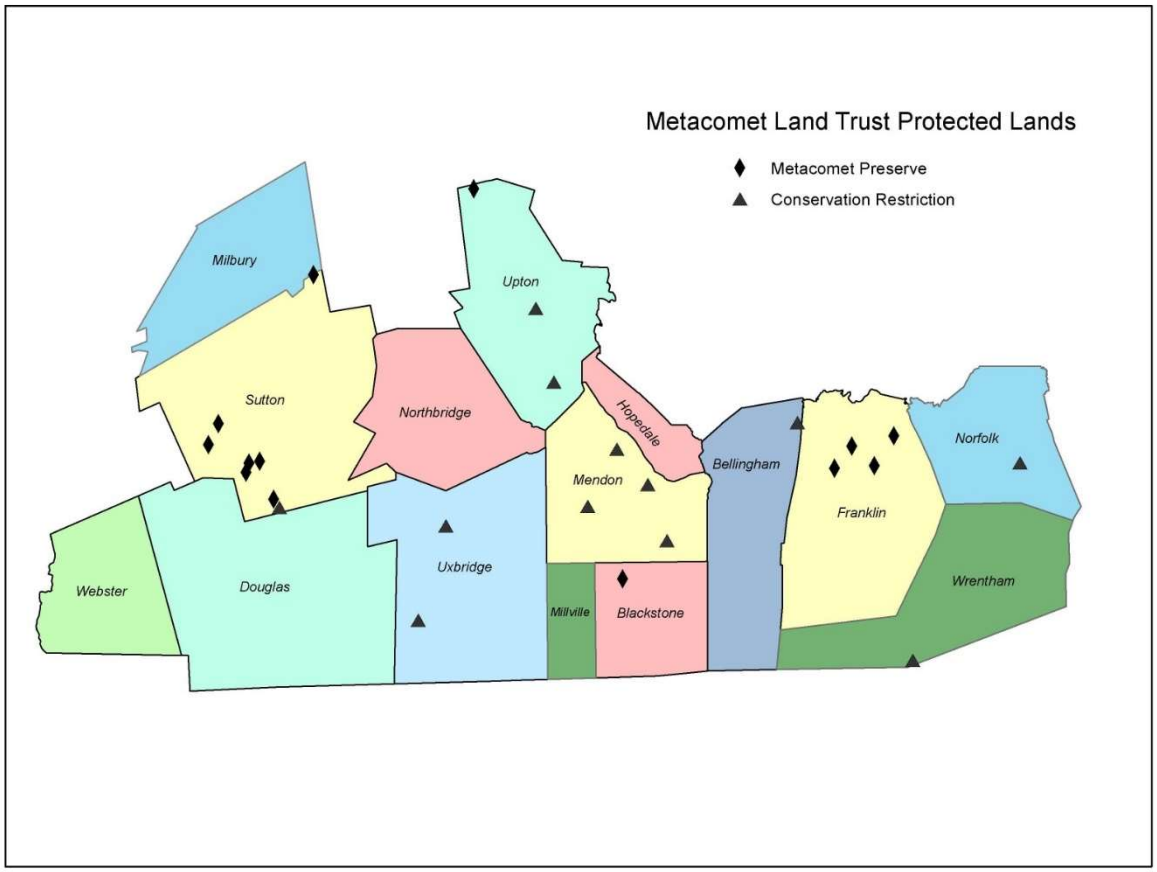
Note that some of these properties are **privately owned** and their future development is restricted according to their agreements with Metacomet and the Commonwealth.

- 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

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 http://masswoods.org/sites/masswoods.org/files/pdf-doc-ppt/YLYL-2-web_0.pdf for great information to get you started.



Communities served by the Metacomet Land Trust

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2017 Community Spirit Award

The Community Spirit Award is an annual award given to citizen conservationists from one of the 15 Blackstone Valley towns Metacomet now serves. At the annual meeting the 2017 award was presented to former MLT Board members Patricia Nedoroscik and Laurie Salmon in recognition of their work teaching children about our environment. Congratulations, Pat and Laurie!

"We thank you so much, Pat and Laurie, for working with our youngest environmentalists and for the years you have selflessly given to our history, our environment and all our educations."

Stewardship

Metacomet stewardship volunteers visited properties protected by Conservation Restrictions such as Muddy Brook North in Mendon (left) as part of our yearly monitoring program. The Trust also continued to address a serious encroachment by an abutter of one of the properties.

Ryan Walsh of Franklin Boy Scout Troop No. 126 constructed a spectacular kiosk at Franklin Woods for his Eagle Scout project (right). At the Hop Brook Preserve in Blackstone, an area was cleared for a small parking area to be completed in 2018.

Education

We organized a vernal pool walk with wetlands biologist Jennifer Carlino in May which was part of a series of walks celebrating Mendon's 350th Anniversary. This particular walk and talk highlighted the vernal pool at Meadow Brook Uplands. One of 4 certified vernal pools on the 97 acre parcel that was conserved in 2014 through cooperation with state Land Acquisition and Natural Diversity grant, Town of Mendon Community Preservation and Open Space Committees and Metacomet Land Trust. Wood frogs, click beetles, and yellow spotted salamander eggs were observed. Grey tree frogs were heard. This vernal pool is located near a Great Blue Heron rookery, which was once the second largest in the state, but is now dwindling in use due to natural factors including co-nesting by Great Horned Owls. Twenty-two people attended the vigorous walk up to the pool, through beautiful riparian ecosystems.

Celebrating our 30th Anniversary!

Here is just a sample of 30th Anniversary celebration events to come:

Wednesday April 18, 6:45 pm
Woodcock Walk at Stefans Farm, Upton

Sunday May 20th, 1 pm
Spring wildflower walk at Stefans Farm, Upton

Saturday June 30, 11 am (Tentative)
Butterfly Walk at Norfolk Airport, Norfolk

Sunday August 26, 7:00 pm (Tentative)
Full Moon Paddle on Stevens Pond, Sutton

Watch for details about our September 30th Anniversary Celebration!

Visit **MetacometLandTrust.org** and follow up on Facebook to learn more!

Land Protection

Stevens Pond, Sutton

In late 2017 we accepted a donation of 38 acres in Sutton from the Sutton Development Trust. We are grateful for their generosity and willingness to permanently protect this special place!

Help us continue our conservation work for the next generation!

Have you renewed your membership for 2018? 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 2018 ANNUAL MEETING MEMBER PROXY

I authorize MLT Board President Lisa Mosczynski or Vice President Kyle Pribish to exercise my vote at the 2018 Annual Meeting for the ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBERS, APPROVAL OF 2017 MEETING MINUTES, APPROVAL OF THE 2018 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, April 2, 2018**.

(details inside)

Got Weeds? Come to our Annual Meeting
April 8 to hear what an invasive plant species
expert has to say!

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

Annual Report & Membership Info Inside!