



# METACOMET LAND TRUST

## **Annual Report** And notice of the **Annual Meeting and Program**

Thursday, April 9, 2015

6:45 p.m.

Sutton Town Hall, 4 Uxbridge Road, Sutton MA

*Asian Longhorn Beetles, Emerald Ash Borer.....are they coming to a tree near you?*

*The Asian Longhorn beetle has devastated parts of Worcester County and recent reports indicate that the infestation might be spreading further into the areas including Millbury, Sutton, and Grafton. What can be done to prevent this and what has worked in the past?*

*Join us on April 9, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. as we welcome Gregory Goodfellow, Forest Pest Outreach Coordinator for the Massachusetts Department of Agriculture. Mr. Goodfellow has coordinated and participated in education outreach of forest pests including the Asian Longhorn Beetle and Emerald Ash Borer.*

*Light refreshments will be provided. The Metacomet Land Trust business meeting will begin at 6:45 p.m. to be followed by our speaking program.*

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](http://www.metacometlandtrust.org)

## President's Message

Your land trust had a very active year working on amazing land preservation projects!

Metacomet partnered with the Town of Mendon and hold several conservation restrictions on properties with diverse and special habitats.

We partnered with land preservationists in Norfolk to help bring resources to a significant parcel of property that was in jeopardy of being developed. Today that property will be open space in perpetuity and we continue to work with the new owners who have preservation as their only priority.

We continued to work with other partners in Northbridge, Upton and Uxbridge to bring conservation resources and funds to land preservation and stewardship projects so that conservation of open space continues to play a significant role in each of those communities.

We are particularly pleased to have started a new partnership with the Commonwealth's Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) so that together we have been able to identify and secure several parcels of land within or abutting the Sutton State Forest.

Our education and stewardship committees continue to thrive. In partnership with DCR we offer conservation and habitat programs at River Bend Farm in Uxbridge to our youngest stewards. Our stewardship committee inspects the properties where we hold conservation restricts and offers expertise and tools to the communities we serve as well as to other conservation organizations.

**Partnerships** have become one of our strongest land preservation tools. Not only do we grow our capacity to preserve and protect conservation lands, but we maximize our financial resources in doing so and we make your donations go further. By continuing to support the Metacomet Land Trust you are investing in the future of the diverse and thriving communities where we live and work. Speak with your neighbors and friends. Tell them – or show them – why land conservation benefits us all and ask them to join you in partnering with us.

In conservation,  
Lisa Mosczynski  
President  
Metacomet Land Trust

**Metacomet Land Trust, Inc.**  
**Balance Sheet 12/31/2014**  
**Unaudited**

<b>Assets</b>	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings Bank Accounts	
Operating Cash	9,526.76
Money Market	87,093.16
CR Protection Money Market	18,267.50
CR Protection C.D.	5,723.48
SNETT Savings	1,269.93
Lake Manchaug Fund Savings	3,611.05
Upton Project Savings	2,120.41
Total Checking/Savings	<u>127,612.29</u>
Accounts Receivable	
Lease Fees Receivable	2,002.50
Total Accounts Receivable	<u>2,002.50</u>
Other Current Assets	
Prepaid Expenses	2,225.93
Total Other Current Assets	<u>2,225.93</u>
Total Current Assets	131,840.72
Fixed Assets	
Equipment	9,562.56
Accumulated Depreciation	(9,562.56)
Land: Affordable House Lots	341,707.00
Land: Open Space	1,574,042.00
Total Fixed Assets	<u>1,915,749.00</u>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b><u><u>2,047,589.72</u></u></b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	
Equity	
Retained Earnings	56,944.57
Unrestricted Funds	104,504.37
Temporarily Restricted	23,057.22
Permanently Restricted	1,865,277.05
Net Income	(2,193.49)
Total Equity	<u>2,047,589.72</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b><u><u>2,047,589.72</u></u></b>

## Minutes of the 2014 Annual Meeting of the Metacomet Land Trust

For approval at the 2015 Annual Meeting  
Metacomet Annual Meeting  
May 15, 2014  
First Universalist Society of Franklin  
262 Chestnut Street, Franklin

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m. with a quorum being present.

Motion to accept the minutes of the 2013 Annual Meeting was made by Tom Bik and seconded by Susan Speers. It passed unanimously.

In 2014 the elected members of the board of directors with terms expiring were: Lisa Moczynski of Douglas, Laurie Salmon of Northbridge, and Larry Rettman of Franklin. Tom Bik motioned that they be re-elected and it was seconded by Paul Knapik. Motion passed unanimously. The president called for nominations from the floor to fill three vacancies and hearing none, nominations for the board were closed.

There was no new business to report.

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m. with a motion made by Paul Knapik and seconded by Tom Bik.

All present were invited to attend the program titled: Rock & Roll and Land Preservation: How WBCN Radio Helped Save the Blackstone Gorge with Carter Alan, author of the book **Radio Free Boston**.

Submitted by,

Lisa Moczynski, Secretary for the Annual Meeting

### 2014 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 2014 award was presented to the Franklin – Bellingham Rail Trail Committee in recognition of their efforts to enhance and promote the Southern New England Trunkline Trail.



Marc Kaplan of the Franklin-Bellingham Rail Trail Committee accepting the Community Spirit Award from Metacomet President Lisa Moczynski



## 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 Moczynski, Douglas	(term expires 2017)
Vice-President - Patricia Nedoroscik, Sutton	(term expires 2016)
Treasurer - Susan Speers, Franklin	(term expires 2016)
Secretary - Laurie Salmon, Northbridge	(term expires 2017)

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 2017)
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.

# PROPERTIES IN WHICH METACOMET LAND TRUST HOLDS AN INTEREST

As of December, 2014

## **LAND: Our total open land acreage currently stands at 386 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.
- ❖ 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

## **CONSERVATION RESTRICTIONS: total acreage under permanent restriction is 337.98 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
- ❖ Muddy Brook North, Muddy Brook South, Meadow Brook Uplands, Mendon 147 acres

**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

\* \* \*

## ***Metacomet News and Notes*** **Education and Outreach**

In 2014 you could find members of the Education and Outreach Committee partnering with Ranger Kathryn Parent of the Department of Conservation and Recreation for the 6<sup>th</sup> consecutive year. We assisted at the Friday morning “Story Hour” programs throughout the summer at River Bend Farm in Uxbridge.



Working with Ranger Parent we helped the children to make birdseed ornaments, butterfly masks, tree slice necklaces, and marveled at the enthusiasm and excitement these young people and their parents and grandparents showed while learning about our wonderful earth.

We also had the pleasure of presenting with Ranger Parent a kindergarten field trip with over thirty excited children from the Whitinsville Christian School. These children came armed with a lot of knowledge and many questions about the importance of trees. We took them on a tree scavenger hunt, dug our fingers into decaying logs, and discovered all of the reasons why trees are important to our daily lives...from the obvious shelter materials and maple syrup to an ingredient in muffin mixes and nail polish! Who knew.....?  
(Watch our website and Constant Contact mailings for information on the 2015 programs.)

On May 14<sup>th</sup> Metacomet partnered with Friends of the Upton State Forest, Upton Open Space, and the Upton Cultural Council and co-sponsored a presentation and walk on stone walls led by expert Robert Thorson at Upton State Forest.

Also in May board member Tom Bik led a walk at the Blackstone Gorge, located in the Blackstone Gorge State Park—a park in the states of Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Metacomet was instrumental in the preservation of the gorge in 1992.

Metacomet properties are beautiful! We found a new way to “show off” some of that beauty by creating note cards with nature themes. These note cards will be available for sale at the annual meeting. All proceeds from the sale of these note cards as well as Metacomet hats and bags benefit the Metacomet Land Trust and our conservation efforts.

### **Stewardship**

MLT accepted conservation restrictions for properties in Mendon known as Muddy Brook South, Muddy Brook North, and Meadow Brook Uplands. Together these



properties total 147 acres. Baseline reports were prepared for the Muddy Brook North and Meadow Brook Upland properties.

Planning work continues for a parking area at the Hopp Brook Preserve in the town of Blackstone.

Metacomet board members visited properties protected by conservation restrictions throughout our coverage area. MLT currently holds 10 conservation restrictions in six communities.

Working with the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, Metacomet assisted in the preservation of several parcels of land in Sutton which added to the Lake Manchaug Greenway and Wildlife Corridor.

Thanks to a generous donor, signs will soon be identifying most of our Metacomet properties.

Join us on March 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> at Blackstone River Canal State Park in Uxbridge as members of the Metacomet Land Trust assist with the annual Maple Sugaring Days at River Bend Farm! The event is held from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. each day.

## **In Memorial**

With sadness Metacomet notes the passing of Shirley Jean Smith of the town of Mendon. Mrs. Smith was a woman of accomplishment and vision who served throughout her life on numerous boards and committees in her community. She had a passion for land conservation which culminated in the placing of a conservation restriction on her own property so that it would be preserved for future generations.





**Help us to continue our conservation work for the next generation!**

Have you renewed your membership for 2015? 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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

**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 2015 ANNUAL MEETING MEMBER PROXY**

I authorize MLT Board President Lisa Moczynski or Vice President Pat Nedoroscik to exercise my vote at the 2015 Annual Meeting for the ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBERS, APPROVAL OF 2014 MEETING MINUTES, and APPROVAL OF THE 2015 ANNUAL REPORT.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail your proxy to Metacomet Land Trust, PO Box 231, Franklin, MA 02038 to arrive by Monday, April 6, 2015.