The Metacomet Land Trust is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization dedicated to the protection of open space and natural resources in South Central Massachusetts. Metacomet proudly serves the communities of Bellingham, Blackstone, Douglas, Franklin, Hopedale, Mendon, Millbury, Millville, Norfolk, Northbridge, Sutton, Upton, Uxbridge, Webster, and Wrentham

Please Join Us for Our Annual Meeting on Thursday, May 21, 2020 via Google video conference. Log on at 6:45 pm, Meeting from 7:00-7:30

Due to the current Covid-19 conditions we will be hosting our annual meeting on line. If you would like to attend, please click on this link **meet.google.com/vga-rvkg-ses.** To join by phone, the number is (US) **+1 601-884-1351 PIN: 207 528 401#**

2020 Annual Meeting Agenda

I. Meeting Called to Order
II. 2019 Annual Meeting Minutes
III. 2019 Annual Report, Treasurer's Report and Financial Statement
IV. Election of Directors to the Board
V. Adjourn

Proxy Vote:

If you are not able to join the annual meeting, please 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 Russell Holden, Vice President, to act on your behalf.

METACOMET LAND TRUST 2020 ANNUAL MEETING MEMBER PROXY. I authorize MLT Board President Lisa Mosczynski or Vice President Russell Holden to exercise my vote at the 2020 Annual Meeting for the ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBERS, APPROVAL OF 2019 MEETING MINUTES, APPROVAL OF THE 2020 ANNUAL REPORT and any MOTIONS that come before the membership.

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

SIGNATURE:: _____

Please mail your proxy to Metacomet Land Trust, PO Box 231, Franklin, MA 02038 to arrive no later than Friday, May 15, 2020. You may also simply photograph the signed form and email the photo to **info@metacometlandtrust.org.**

We Love Where We Live – And We Know You Do, Too!

President's Message

Greetings, Metacomet members and friends!

Our work with the Metacomet Land Trust – to do what we can to preserve and protect, to conserve special habitats and open spaces – this work -- *gives us sustenance and hope*.

Our properties remain open for all to enjoy because we know how important it is to get outside to clear one's mind and refresh one's body. Check out the salamanders and wood frogs in the vernal pools along with masses of cells that hold their individual eggs (see page 6), the marsh marigolds blooming along your favorite stream bank, queen bumble bees coming out of their isolation to start a new hive, all unfazed by the human condition. Life goes on about us, reminding us that this too shall pass.

We will continue to assist landowners with the preservation of their properties, to help Eagle Scouts with their projects, to mark trails through beautiful woodlands and to urge everyone to plant and maintain your properties for pollinators. We will continue to carry our mission forward for you and for the Earth.

In conservation,

Lisa Mosczynski
Lisa Mosczynski, President

2019 Annual Meeting Minutes

May 19, 2019 at Nipmuc Regional High School, Upton, MA

A quorum being present, President Lisa Mosczynski called the annual meeting to order at 1:37 pm.

Motion to accept the 2018 Annual Meeting Minutes by Larry Rettman, seconded by Tom Bik. Approved.

Motion to accept the annual report and financial statement by Tom Bik, seconded by Larry Rettman, Approved.

Board member Nick Bik announced his retirement from the board. Congratulations to Nick and thank you for many years of service to our Metacomet Land Trust community.

Motion to re-elect board members Susan Speers, Russ Holden, Doug Williams, by Larry Rettman, seconded by Tom Bik. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Nomination of Christine Scott to the Board representing Upton by Mike Penko, seconded by Shirley Mosczynski. *Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

There was no new business and a motion to adjourn the Annual Business Meeting was made by Shirley Mosczynski and seconded by Tom Bik. Approved at 1:42 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Patrice Murphy, Secretary

Cathy Taylor and Rebecca Wetzel, both from Upton, were the 2019 Metacomet Community Spirit Award winners for their efforts to map and preserve Native American ceremonial stone landscapes.

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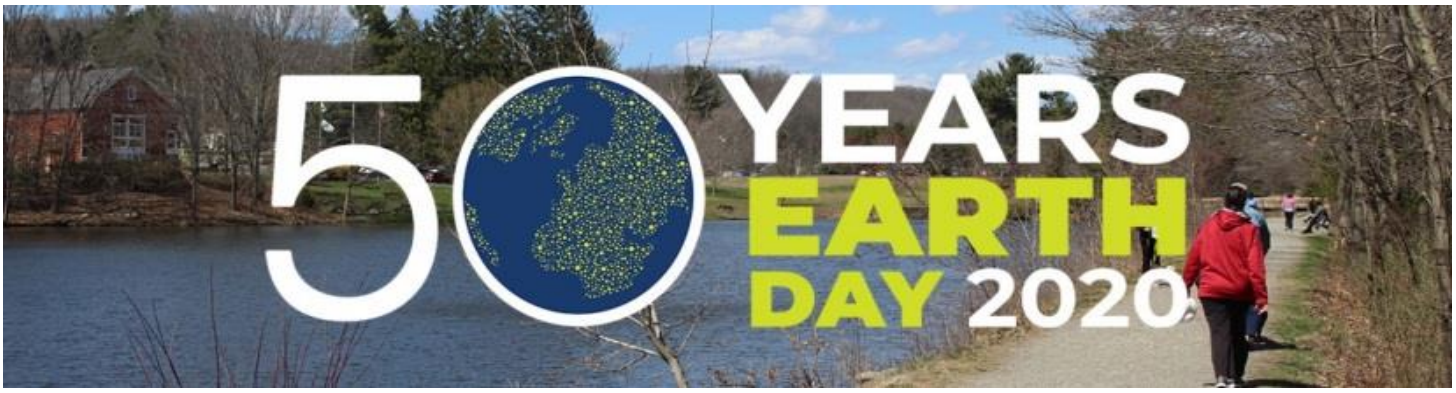

Support your land trust on the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day. Thanks to pledges from Metacomet Land Trust supporters, including Board members, your unrestricted donation or membership received between April 22 and May 20 will be doubled! **Donate here: Earth Day Match**

Board Members - Status April 2020

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.

President - Lisa Mosczynski, Douglas	(term expires 2020)*
Treasurer - Susan Speers, Franklin	(term expires 2022)
Vice-President - Russell Holden, Uxbridge	(term expires 2022)
Secretary - Patrice Murphy, Mendon	(term expires 2021)
Tom Bik, Blackstone	(term expires 2021)**
Larry Rettman, Franklin	(term expires 2020)* **
Peg Rothwell, Hopedale	(term expires 2021)
Michael Rodriguez, Millville	(term expires 2020)*
Kyle Pribish, Norfolk	(term expires 2021)
Doug Williams, Norfolk	(term expires 2022)
Barbara McNamee, Northbridge	(term expires 2022)
Mike Penko, Upton	(term expires 2021)
Christine Scott – Upton	(term expires 2022)
Anne Hanscom, Uxbridge	(term expires 2020)*

** Founding Board Members
* Members terms expiring

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 help with due diligence in conducting stewardship inspections. Use this form or email us at info@metacometlandtrust.org or call us at 508-271-7131 if you can help.

How To Reach Us
The Metacomet Land Trust

Call us at 508-271-7131
Website: www.MetacometLandTrust.org
Email: info@metacometlandtrust.org
Twitter: @MetacometLandTr
Facebook:
https://www.facebook.com/MetacometLandTrust/

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Treasurer's Report for the Calendar Year 2019

Metacomet Land Trust, Inc.
Statement of Financial Position
As of December 31, 2019

	Total	
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Bank Accounts		
Unrestricted Operating Checking Account	$ 7,405.76	
Unrestricted Operating Reserve in Money Market Account	$ 17,603.68	
Money Market Account (includes the following special funds)	$ 170,209.56	
Berthelette Property Acquisition Fund		$ 1,000.00
Charles River Meadowlands Fund		$ 56.73
Educational Materials Fund		$ 442.49
Land Acquisition Fund		$ 3,609.35
Mendon Conservation Projects Fund		$ 9,231.06
MLT Sign Fund		$ 6,506.25
Leland Wild Norfolk Airport Fund		$ 128,760.00
Szerlag Farm Property Fund (Northbridge)		$ 3,000.00
Additional Special Purpose Bank Accounts		
CR Protection Endowment	$ 22,748.40	
CR Stewardship Expense Fund	$ 10,688.69	
SNETT Special Projects	$ 1,277.28	
Lake Manchaug Projects	$ 3,649.31	
Whitney Trail Upton	$ 1,482.91	
Total Bank Accounts	**$ 217,461.91**	
Accounts Receivable		
Lease Fees Receivable	$ 45.00	
Total Accounts Receivable	**$ 45.00**	
Other Current Assets		
12000 Undeposited Funds	$ 100.00	
14000 Prepaid Expenses	$ 3,240.00	
Total Other Current Assets	**$ 3,340.00**	
Total Current Assets	**$ 220,846.91**	
Fixed Assets		
Permanently Restricted Land and Affordable House Lots	$ 3,181,800.00	
Gifts of Permanently Restricted Land in 2019	$ 234,469.00	
Unrestricted Open Space	$ 99,900.00	
Total Fixed Assets	**$ 3,516,169.00**	
TOTAL ASSETS	**$ 3,737,015.91**	
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY		
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable		
20000 Accounts Payable	$ -	
Total Accounts Payable	**$ -**	
Other Current Liabilities	$ -	
Total Other Current Liabilities	**$ -**	
Total Current Liabilities	**$ -**	
Total Liabilities	**$ -**	
Equity		
Unrestricted Land	$ 99,900.00	
Temporarily Restricted Funds	$ 192,452.17	
Permanently Restricted Land	$ 3,416,269.00	
Net Revenue	$ 35,508.63	
Total Equity	**$ 3,744,129.80**	
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	**$ 3,744,129.80**	

Financials are unaudited results for the calendar year 2019

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Treasurer's Report for the Calendar Year 2019

In 2019, Metacomet began to align its financial reporting methods with those used by other land conservation organizations. The tables presented here spell out certain aspects of our financial condition that were not obvious in our previous reports. For the first time, we are able to track the balance in each of 13 funds the Trust maintains for special projects. In accounting terms, these special accounts are called Temporarily Restricted funds because they are restricted in their use according to the terms of the original gift or grant to the Trust. At present, the Trust holds over $190,000 in these special funds. In comparison, our unrestricted cash available for general operating costs was $25,009.44 at the end of last year. Please note that these balances have not been reviewed by our accounting firm and will likely be altered when our books are reviewed later in 2020.

Susan Speers, Treasurer

Help us continue our conservation work for the next generation!

Have you renewed your membership for 2020? 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 _____

NAME(S):_____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE _____ EMAIL:_____

_____Yes! I am interested in volunteering!

Check out our Website: www.MetacometLandTrust.org. You can renew online!

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Stewardship Report

Metacomet directors visited all properties protected by conservation restrictions as part of our yearly monitoring program. After successful legal action led by the Town of Upton, an in ground swimming pool installed on a restricted property by an abutting property owner was removed. Baseline reports were prepared for two new acquisitions, the Bonner Natural Area in Upton and the Berthelette Preserve in Millville. Work began on a baseline report for Heritage Park in Upton.

Around the time Metacomet acquired the Szerlag Preserve in Northbridge, the Trust signed the Blackstone Heritage Corridor "Pollinator Pledge." The pledge committed Metacomet to conserving and enhancing habitat for bees, butterflies, and other native pollinators. An open field on the Szerlag property off Roosevelt Drive was an ideal location to establish a pollinator garden. Work on the garden began in the fall of 2019, with some plantings, invasive species control and creation of trails. The field supports more than two dozen species of grasses and flowering plants. Others will be planted this spring. Work also began on a kiosk at the Szerlag Preserve by Whitinsville Troop 155 Eagle Scout candidate Daniel Maccaline.

Heritage Park, Upton

All Metacomet preserves are open to the public. Trails are present at some properties, including Franklin Woods, Lady Bug Trail, and the Hop Brook, Stevens Pond, Szerlag Farm and Boria preserves.

Records Project

Metacomet does not currently have an office and 30+ years of organizational records are kept in boxes by several board members. Work began in 2019 to preserve, organize and digitize the records. By the end of 2019, approximately 6.5 GB of data were uploaded on the Trust's Google Drive Account. More remains to be done.

To the left: Spotted salamander embryos in their isolation capsules.

To the right: Underwater wood frog eggs in their isolation capsules

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Conservation

Metacomet completed four conservation projects in 2019. In April, the Trust acquired the Szerlag Preserve, a 26.6 acre, parcel in Northbridge. In June, the Town of Upton granted the Trust a conservation restriction on Upton's Heritage Park. The 7-acre park was purchased using Community Preservation Act funds in 2006. The park includes frontage on Mill Pond near Upton town center and is the location of an ancient stone chamber. In August, we recorded a gift of land that adds to our conservation holdings at Stevens Pond in Sutton. Metacomet now owns 50.2 acres on Stevens Pond, including 2000 feet of beautiful rocky shoreline. We gratefully acknowledge the generous donation of all three parcels by the Sutton Development Trust. Finally, In September, Metacomet preserved 70 acres of forest land abutting Upton's Whitney Conservation Area. Conservation values of the Bonner Natural Area include 1,000 feet of frontage along Warren Brook, a stone barn foundation thought to date from the late 1700s or early 1800s, rock outcrops, and several vernal pools. The parcel is contiguous with over 400 acres of town and privately-owned protected open space in Upton and Grafton. The land was donated to Metacomet and a Conservation Restriction on the property is held by the Sudbury Valley Trustees.

Bonner Natural Area

In addition, we are involved at different stages in more than 15 projects that support conservation in our towns, from potential private conservation restrictions, private land donations, community acquisition projects and grant writing to conservation for low impact development and open space communities.

Metacomet Land Trust currently owns 556 acres of Conservation Land and holds 12 conservation restrictions on 352 acres. The Trust also monitors a conservation restriction held by the Town of Mendon, co-owns 20 acres in Sutton with the Massachusetts Division of Conservation and Recreation Commonwealth, and owns 7 affordable housing lots in Franklin. Properties conserved by Metacomet as of December 2019 are located in Bellingham, Blackstone, Franklin, Mendon, Millbury, Northbridge, Norfolk, Sutton, Upton, Uxbridge, and Wrentham. To see a list, click on this link https://metacometlandtrust.org/protected-lands/.

Nature and Your Health – an Observation by Patrice Murphy

During the recent April snowfall, I felt a special kinship with the young white pines encased and isolated by the snow. The thick layer of snow seemed to shutter them off from the woods and their young branches were collapsing under the weight of the spring snow. I couldn't see the paths with all of the trees leaning over, and the very familiar woods were strangely foreign. Shaking them free of their burden lifted my mood. By setting them free, I was suddenly more aware of the weight I have been carrying to buoy the spirits around me, to continue to contribute to conservation efforts, to stay connected to family and friends, to keep food on the table, to keep life in our house as "normal" as possible … well it isn't normal – and its ok to not feel normal – and the woods and the white pines helped me to find my way.

I hope nature can provide some soothing of the pandemic angst for you and your family, and some hope in the resilience of our species and our world.

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