

# Woodlands Partnership of Northwest Massachusetts\*

## Board Meeting – Tuesday, March 24, 2026, 5:30-7:30 p.m. via Zoom

**Mission: Natural Resource-Based Economic Development, Forest Conservation, & Municipal Sustainability**

**Date:** Tuesday, March 24, 2026 **Time:** 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. **Remote Meeting via Zoom.** *Members of the public are welcome. Email [hayden@newenglandforestry.org](mailto:hayden@newenglandforestry.org) to request the link.* **Attendees:** Woodlands Partnership (WP) Board Members and Public; **Project Staff:** L. Hayden – Administrative Agent/New England Forestry Foundation; **Guest(s):** Dr. Jessica Dolan, Ph.D. – Indigenous-Focused Natural & Cultural Inventory Consultant; Heritage Area Consultants: Jessica Atwood, Franklin Regional Council of Governments; Cornelius Hoss, Berkshire Regional Planning Commission

Agenda Items	Estimated Time	Key Person(s)
1. Call to order and Welcome	5:30 p.m.	D. Crane – Board Chair
2. Introduction of Guests and Board member Roll Call	5:35 p.m.	L. Hayden – NEFF/Agent
3. Review and approval of November 5, 2025 Board Minutes <sup>^</sup>	5:45 p.m.	A. Peteroy – Board Clerk
4. Vote on unanimous Jan. Ex. Com. recommendation to add new voting Board seat for Western Massachusetts Commissioner on Indian Affairs (currently held by Rhonda Anderson) <sup>^</sup>	5:50 p.m.	L. Hayden – NEFF/Agent D. Crane – Board Chair
5. Bylaws Review & Vote to reflect name change & latest members <sup>^</sup>	6:00 p.m.	L. Hayden – NEFF/Agent
6. Agent Contract update, transition, Program Director search committee	6:10 p.m.	L. Hayden – Agent, NEFF team D. Crane – Board Chair
7. Overview of Heritage Area draft Feasibility Study report themes; Board feedback; next steps: public outreach meetings 2026, dialogue with Indigenous Communities; Park Service, Congressional review	6:20 p.m.	L. Hayden, Jessica Dolan, Ph.D., Jessica Atwood, FRCOG, Cornelius Hoss, BRPC
8. Vote on Ex. Com. 5-0 vote to “recommend to Board that the Woodlands Partnership explore National Heritage Area participation and funding sharing arrangements with interested Indigenous communities whose homelands are anywhere in the 21-town region of Northwest Massachusetts in the event annual federal funds are realized from an approved Heritage Area through the National Park Service.” <sup>^</sup>	6:45 p.m.	D. Crane – Board Chair L. Hayden – NEFF/Agent Jessica Dolan, Ph.D. Board members
9. Agent & Board Chair reports: WP Fund state law corrected; Register for April 9 Ethan Tapper webinar; Voices for Forest projects; tree-planting sites needed by August grant close; USFS practices grant 2-yr extension	6:40 p.m.	L. Hayden – NEFF/Agent D. Crane – Board Chair
10. Committee & Board Member Updates as Needed: PILOT reform, environmental bond bill; June officer elections; Town & Chair vacancies; Committees’ focus on NHA vision; View from Appalachian Trail	7:10 p.m.	-Sam Haupt, Peru – Municipal Financial Sustainability Com. -John Waite, FCCDC, NRBED -Hannah Poplawski, Rowe
11. Any item(s) not anticipated within 48 hours	7:20 p.m.	L. Hayden – NEFF/Agent
12. Public Comment	7:25 p.m.	
13. Adjourn	7:30 p.m.	D. Crane – Board Chair

<sup>^</sup> **Action Required** - Please contact facilitator (978-952-6856 x121) with questions.

\*On Oct. 11, 2022, the Board of the public body created in 2018 voted unanimously to change its name from “Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership” in its bylaws to operating as the “Woodlands Partnership of Northwest Massachusetts,” the name now recognized in law by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and by the USDA Forest Service.