



MASSACHUSETTS
LAND TRUST
COALITION

2025 Land Trust / State Agency Retreat

Agenda as of Aug. 20

Registration required. [Register here](#).

Day 1 (Wed. Oct. 8) at Treasure Valley Scout Reservation (394 Pleasantdale Rd., Rutland MA)

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|-----------------------|--|
| 8:30 - 9:00 a.m. | Gathering, coffee (30 min) |
| 9:00 - 9:30 a.m. | Welcome (agenda overview, ground rules) Lisa Primiano and Robb Johnson / Introductions (30 min) |
| 9:30 – 10:00 a.m. | Status Updates (30 min) <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Brief topline summary of progress over past year, and current status and challenges facing land conservation (including federal policy/funding) (Kurt Gaertner)2. Short update on Environmental Bond Bill from a LT policy person3. American Farmland Trust on the newest farmland protection resources (5 min)4. ECCN report out RE: Mentor Program: success & call for mentors (5 min) |
| 10:00 – 10:45 a.m. | Topic: Shifting allocations among DCS grant programs (45 min) <ul style="list-style-type: none">● With decreases in State funding, what target areas are most critical for land trusts to get funded? <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Informal walk for ECCNers. Discuss creative solutions and/or ideas on topics land trusts could have an impact on at the State level. |
| 10:45 - 11:00 a.m. | Break |
| 11:00 a.m. - 12:15 pm | Topic: The State's comprehensive land use plan (75 min)
Description: Status and proposed uses of the statewide comprehensive land use plan, and opportunities for input from the conservation community. |
| 12:15 - 1:15 p.m. | Lunch (1 h) |

1:15 - 2:15 p.m.

2 choices: (1 h)

1. Mentoring / career development panel discussion – for both early career professionals AND experienced folks

OR

2. A walk around the Camp property (scavenger hunt)

2:30 – 3:30 p.m.

Topic: Engaging the Public – Communicating/Framing Our Messages on Policy Issues (1 h)

Description: Using the new Mass for Nature ballot campaign as one example, how does the land trust community respond to constituent questions about matters that concern a broader scope of stakeholder needs (i.e., housing, food, other)? Discuss "how" to develop a strategy and messaging. NOTE: State participants are not allowed to express specific opinions on the ballot.

3:30 - 3:45 p.m.

Break or goodbye (15 min)

3:45 - 4:30ish p.m.

Conservation Trivia with Russ Cohen (45 min)

Overnighters drive to Harvard Forest and start cooking.

Day 2 (Thurs. Oct. 9) at Harvard Forest (324 N Main St., Petersham MA)

Overnighters cook breakfast.

9:30 - 10:00 a.m.

Next steps: How do we progress with what we learned yesterday?

10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

The Dizzying Landscape of Farmland Protection Tools in Massachusetts: A Discussion (Kathleen Doherty / Jamie Pottern) (60 min)

11:00 - 11:15 a.m.

Break

11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

What's Next with RLI (Resilient Lands Initiative) (Jocelyn Forbush / Lisa Primiano) (60 min)

12:15 - 12:30 p.m.

Final thoughts / wrap up by Lisa and Robb (15 min)