

Conservation Partners Meeting Minutes Friday, December 13, 2024 Virtual

Attendees: Virtual attendees on record. (~145 registered; at least 103 attended)

Staff Attendees:

- Robb Johnson, ED
- Barbara Chrenko, Programs Manager
- Lauren Berk, Development and Operations Coordinator

Handouts: (Virtual: emailed or on website: <u>https://massland.org/events/december-2024-conservation-partner-meeting</u>

- Agenda for today's meeting emailed to all registrants.
- Minutes of September 20, 2024
- Quarterly Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition (MLTC) and Land Trust Alliance Public Policy Updates
- Presentation materials
- 1) Kathy Orlando Chair, MLTC Conservation Partners (CP) convened the CP meeting.
 - a) *Meeting Introductions and logistics.* Participants introduced themselves as Kathy called their names. She clarified if late, or missed, they would be able to introduce themselves after her screen list was done.
 - b) Review of September 20th Minutes. Rita Grossman moved, and Buzz Constable seconded the motion to accept the minutes of September 20, 2024 CP meeting. Hearing no further discussion, Kathy called the vote.
 VOTE: Unanimous
 - c) Next meeting: Friday, March 7, 2025, 10am via Zoom

2) LTA Report- Jen Plowden, New England Program Manager (See slides below for additional details)

a) Update on US treasury regulations

Back in October, the treasury published final and immediately effective, and retroactive to 2018, listed transaction regulations that have important implications for land trusts working on easement or land donations. It is really complicated and still open to further interpretation, but essentially in certain circumstances, land trusts may need to report and disclose information to the IRS about these donations if the land trust acts as a material advisor. It is important because if a land trust fails to do that, it could trigger a \$200,000 penalty, which is the first type of financial liability like this. There are resources available if one wants to learn more, including a recording of a webinar and sample decision tree that addresses new regulations. You should also consult LTA or your legal experts. For support, please reach out to Diana Norris on LTA's conservation defense team.

Stephen Small emphasized that these new rules are important. These rules are a result of the Easement Integrity Act, which aimed to shut down abusive violations and syndications. Now every decision for a restriction project will need to address this problem. And almost always- your answer will be that your transaction doesn't meet these new criteria, but given the risk of a fine, it's important to check. If the claimed deduction is greater than 2 1/2 times the basis of the investment, and it's less than a three-year holding period, all the warning bells go off. Applying this will be very difficult. More to come, as we understand it more.

b) Climate & Energy Bill

It was a really great year for state and local ballot measures across the country. There were 22 measures at the ballot this year that will generate more than 18 billion for conservation. Voters rejected anti climate and

conservation measures in in two states- a reminder that conservation is nonpartisan, and communities have always approached policy work in a nonpartisan manner, and that will be our strength going forward. Trump will be President, and Republicans will control the House and Senate, and LTA's government relations team is working hard to keep land trusts updated. They're tracking cabinet nominations and thinking about how Trump priorities might impact our work. It will be important for all of us to talk about the benefits of our work during this time.

c) Farm Bill.

This is not expected to get across the finish line during the lame duck session. The negotiations have shifted to a one-year extension and the Alliance and partners are advocating for incorporating the IRA funding into the extension. Republicans can eliminate the climate sideboards (i.e. add-on sand if that funding is not secured in the extension package, it will likely be rescinded in the new Congress because Republicans are looking for funding to pay for the reconciliation bills.

d) Terrafirma membership

The open enrollment and renewal period is now open through February 1, 2025. Reminders are not sent, so it's important to make sure you act before the deadline.

e) Land Trust Salary Survey

The latest survey results have been announced, with 264 responses included. MA came in 5th for number of land trusts participating in the survey; Jen thanked everyone who participated. Some findings include:

- More land trusts are led by men instead of women, first time since 2017.
- Most land trusts are still allowing remote work, allowing hybrid.
- High cost of housing is one of the major barriers to hiring conservation staff.
- There is a notable increase in racial and ethnic diversity in land conservation- an increase from 3% to 14.5% from 2013 to now.
- Data on ED salaries and other staff is included. These are parsed by budget size and starter/middle or late career stages identified. There is also information on benefits included. Alliance members can access the full report in the Resource Center.
- f) Coming up
- A free risk mgmt. series is coming up where you will learn info on how to avoid legal costs, with a Terrafirma discount available for those who participate. A January 13 webinar is coming up with info for land trusts who are up for renewal of their Accreditation. There is also a website with support resources and a support group for those who are up for renewal.
- 2 new practical pointers have been released on Implications to Conserved Lands of Carbon Capture and Ecosystem Services and Conserved Lands.
- 11 E.D.s from Massachusetts Land Trusts have been selected to participate in a 6-month leadership development series co-sponsored by the Alliance and MLTC. It starts in January.
- Check out the <u>Alliance Job Board.</u> You can also post jobs there.
- Check out the upcoming 30 new <u>educational webinars</u> coming soon!

3) MLTC Staff Report -- Robb Johnson, MLTC Executive Director gave the following update (see slides in *Attachment A*):

- a) <u>Recent Events</u>
 - Mass State Dinner at Rally was held on September 27 in Providence Robb thanked all who were able to join.

• Land Protection Tools & Techniques Course Retreat was held at Wildlands Trust from November 8-10 – it was part of a successful pilot of a 10-week training course that we hope to repeat in 2025.

• 21st Annual Land Trust / State Agency Retreat was held on October 16-17

• MLTC was thrilled to receive the Eliot Award at The Trustees Annual Meeting, November 7 -- thank you to the Trustees.

b) Upcoming events-

Discussion on Draft Open Space Act (formerly known as PLPA) Regulations

Draft regs are out, with comments due by January 22, 5:00 pm

• MLTC is hosting a meeting on Monday, December 16, 2:00 – 3:00 pm via Zoom to help those who are considering submitting comments.

• EEA is hosting a hybrid public hearing on Tuesday, December 17, 1:00 pm, in person in Westboro or via Zoom.

In response to Dot McGlincy's question on where one can access the regs and public hearing registration info, , Mike Gendron shared the following link: <u>https://www.mass.gov/doc/december-17-2024-notice-of-public-hearing/download</u>

Dot also shared the following link to view the a recording of a recent informational webinar on the Open Space Act and the draft regs on MACC's website: <u>https://www.maccweb.org/news/688781/Open-Space-Act-Lunch--Learn-Recording-Now-Available.htm</u>

For folks who wanted to sign up for MLTC's meeting to discuss the OSA regulations, Robb shared the zoom link: <u>https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUkd-GgpzsqE93pYPi5hWnUmrNiJvWs5tbl#/registration</u>

- c) <u>Climate-Informed Land Stewardship</u>
 - MLTC sponsoring a three-part series on Thursdays: January 16, 23, 30
 - Setting Stage by Fran Blanchard (DCR) & Bob Murray (Trustees)
 - Forests by Laura Marx (TNC)
 - Water/Wetlands by Alex Hackman (Mass Audubon)
 - \$20 per member organization for the whole series, \$35 for non-members
 - Great registration so far, appreciate the presenters should be a great cohort.
- d) Upcoming Networking Calls
 - Free registration at massland.org/events
 - January 16- Development Staff Quarterly Networking
 - January 29- Land Protection Staff Topical Networking
 - February 13- Networking of Executive Directors of Large Regional Land Trusts
 - February 20- Quarterly Zoom for All-Volunteer Land Trusts
- e) Massachusetts Land Conservation Conference
 - Friday, March 21 at UMass Amherst
 - Registration opens in January.
 - Special thanks to the Planning Committee

MLTC staff are just doing final confirmations with workshop presenters.

Huge thank you to our sponsors; there is still an opportunity to join, so Robb called on all to take a look. *Sponsors Levels*

• Platinum, Lead, Patron, Supporter, and Contributor.

Excellence in Conservation Award

New this year, the award will be presented by MLTC's Conservation Advisory Council at the conference in March. MLTC has received 13 great nominations and are now closed. Thank you for the great nominations!

f) Nominating Season for MLTC Board

The next round for nominations to the MLTC Board will be for 3-year terms, starting next July. The election will be held at the June Conservation Partners Meeting. We are open to candidate ideas, please share any you may think will make a good addition, with Robb who will share with the nominating committee.

4) State Agency Updates – Kurt Gaertner, Assistant Secretary for Environmental Policy, Bob Wilber, Director of Conservation Services and agency staff.

a) Opportunities to comment on draft regs for Open Space Act (formerly known as "PLPA")

<u>Open Space Act</u>,)- new regulations have been posted for comments which can be given until January 22. A public hearing is coming up next Tuesday (in person and on zoom)- Kurt encouraged everyone to participate. Kurt is looking for opportunities to talk about the Open Space Act, leading up to the issuance of the regulations –

including a recent webinar through the MA Association of Conservation Commissions. His presentation slide deck will be circulated with all partners present today.

b) Other Agency Work Updates

Amongst several updates since our last quarterly meeting, a provision of the recently passed Economic Development bill, the Department of Agricultural Resources has now been authorized to hold land in fee. Surprisingly, they did not previously have that capability.

<u>The recently passed Climate Bill</u> now requires a site suitability provision that Steve Long and others on the energy infrastructure sitting commission have been working on, and that the EEA is now charged with implementing.

<u>The Environmental Bond Bill</u> is still on the timeline that was previously discussed -- sometime in the March/ April, and the Administration is working quite hard on particulars. Undersecretary Stephanie Cooper is taking the lead on the compilation of the draft. The "inside sections" of the bill pertaining to funding lines and the "outside sections" related to policy elements both generated some good conversations at the Land Trust retreat.

c) Progress report on CR review process and 2024 Conservation Land Tax Credit projects

Bob Wilber reported that they have hired the Nixon Peabody legal firm to help expedite the CR review process. That firm has now processed 60-65 CRs on behalf of EEA. The work quality is very good. Their review will not replace the DCS or the EEA reviews but will allow those to be done more quickly. Most of these CRs are those that have essentially been pushed back in the queue as a result of the repeated prioritization of time-sensitive CRs that has been necessary at the close of recent fiscal and calendar years. All such CRs have now received at least initial review.

In addition, there are five auxiliary reviewers now in place. In total there are 243 applications in system. This figure can be misleading. More than half- 126 of these- are either awaiting the Secretary's or municipal signatures, or are back with the applicants, awaiting action.

There were 64 Year-end sensitive CRs this year. EEA had communicated a deadline to submit these of September 21 but received several after this deadline. Nonetheless, the effort to process all including the ones submitted late is underway. 11 CRs have been approved for signature, 3 have been withdrawn, 6 others are being worked on.

Overall, Bob said he sees signs of real progress. One year ago, there were 20 applications that did not have a review started after one year of being received, and now there are only 3 that that have not been started for 3 months since being received. For most of last year the number of those applications not started was between 80-90 most for most of the time, peaking at 95 in mid oct. DCS has received 109 new submissions since August of this year and only 29 are pending a review start. The EEA is pleased with this figure, while acknowledging that they still have ways to go and improve their customer service, but progress is being made.

d) APR and Farmland Action Plan updates

Katharine Otto presented that the first-year progress report is coming up in two weeks which can be accessed by writing to Katharine and signing up for the newsletter at Katharine.s.otto@mass.gov. Expect the first Progress Report in the next few weeks.

The APR program has acquired two APR projects during FY25. The projects protect roughly 226 acres with an APR value of 2.5 million. The APR program also has 301 active voted projects in the pipeline, which when voted in by the ALPC bring the total to 205k acres into protection.

The APR project scoresheet has recently changed and can be accessed at <u>https://www.mass.gov/doc/apr-project-scoresheet/download</u>

Jamie Pottern, American Farmland Trust, called on participants to join in for the Winter 2025 meeting of the ACEP-ALE Program Sub-committee of the MA NRCS State Technical Committee to learn about ACEP-ALE and WRE programs as tools for farmland protection, participate in making recommendations to the State Technical Committee, and help to shape the role and scope of this sub-committee to advance farmland protection efforts

across the state. This group meets quarterly. All interested parties welcome; register at <u>https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0kdOyqpzMoEtRyQaFzNATbGrMscHQGJ5BI</u>". Additional resources can be accessed at <u>https://farmlandaccess.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/heirs-property-factsheet-ma-2024.pdf</u>.

- e) Funding Opportunities
 - New Grant program for Reserves
 Vanessa Farny reported that 5M in grants were recently awarded to 10 land trusts and 2 towns to protect 1500 acres of forestland to be managed as forest reserves.
 - Landscape Partnership grant details can be accessed at: <u>https://www.mass.gov/info-details/landscape-partnership-grant-program</u>
 - The Conservation Technical Assistance Program

Darya Mattes reported that they are beginning to get good applications for the new Land Conservation Assistance Grant program (which accepts applications on a rolling basis) and are trying to show quicker turnarounds as well. Some internal procedures around rolling grants have changed, but she is excited to see projects coming in

- Tribal land Acquisition Program The inaugural round has seen 3 proposals received, one of which is not moving forward. A second round of RFPs should be expected shortly.
- There's an active Land and Water Conservation Fund grant round with a January 9th deadline at 3 PM.
- The Drinking Water Supply Protection grant (March 7 deadline) and the Landscape Partnership grant (April 3 deadline) have been posted. Information sessions are scheduled in January. Details can be accessed at: <u>https://www.mass.gov/info-details/drinking-water-supply-protection-grant-program</u> The Cool Corridors Grant is a tree planting program targeting heat islands and EEA has received a robust response. Micro forest initiatives are part of this initiative that needs outreach amongst communities and towns. The cooling corridors grant program details are here: <u>https://www.mass.gov/how-to/applyto-the-cool-corridors-grant-program</u>

Janet Milkman requested an update on the Cranberry Bog acquisition program. Bob Wilber responded that they have offered two rounds of that grant program and expect to continue. Kurt added that they have committed most of the APRA funds they had received and they are now turning to back to the state's capital budget for much of their land conservation needs.

With some maneuvering by ANF, ARPA funds are now considered state dollars instead of federal and no longer carry the same sort of constraints as before, especially for timing. At the Secretary's request, most of the remaining ARPA funds are being committed by the end of the year. It doesn't, however, change EEA's spending plans substantially.

Robb Johnson asked about the status of year-end Conservation Land Tax Credit transactions. Bob Wilbert confirmed that all of the land tax credit projects scheduled for this year are getting their full attention and he is optimistic to complete them all. Six are still under review and EEA has been in regular communication with the six organizations involved in those.

Heidi Ricci thanked EEA, DEP, and DFG for supporting the Wetlands Restrictions Orders technical fix for restoration projects, which was included in the recent Economic Development bill.

Kurt ended the session by thanking everyone for their participation.

5) Featured Topic: RCPP Grants Awarded to EEA and Mass Audubon – Status and Next Steps – Bob Wilber, Director of Conservation Services, EEA; Darya Mattes, Resilient Lands Initiative Grants Administrator, EEA; Tim Calabrese, Senior Director for Corporate, Foundation and Government Grants, Mass Audubon. Bob Wilber reported that a total of 46M is coming to MA that includes 20.8M coming to the State and 25M coming to Mass Audubon over 5 years from the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service RCPP program. This funding will be used to acquire easements only and will not cover their fee protection work. The fund will support four categories of acquisition - Farms and food, Forest and large landscapes, Coastal and Urban. The first wo categories may make up most of the funding. The paperwork to secure the funding is currently underway with NRCS. They are working on creating templates that will cater to three levels of restrictiveness. E.g.: A minimal level of restrictiveness will be needed for a working farm or a maximum level for a private forest operation. Bob lauded Mass Audubon for being willing to pursue the "Alternative Funding Model" route in their RCPP application, while the Commonwealth applied for RCPP Classic. Being able to navigate that enabled both MA applications not to compete with each other - hence nearly \$46 Million in Federal Funding coming to the Bay State.

Barbara Charry congratulated Bob and thanked him for his work to bring large funding to MA for land protection and resilience. Julie Richburg also thanked him, sharing excitement for this funding to help support forest and habitat protection and restoration in MA. Amy Dryansky also thanked everyone for their work.

There are federally held easements (approx.. 15%) and then there are entity acquired easements (approx.. 85%) which are locally held. Within each of these, there are opportunities for technical assistance from NRCS as well.

They have requested guidance on deductibility issues, flagged also by Stephen Small.

Darya is the chief drafter of EEA's successful application and is also leading this process forward. She shared that they have emphasized reaching producers that don't meet the funding criteria usually, in their application, as well as reaching historically underserved communities, lower income communities, farmers of color, indigenous farmers- 40% of easements will go to the underserved.

Tim Calabrese from Mass Audubon reported that they are receiving 25M in partnership grant over 5 years for building resiliency in the Connecticut river valley. This includes approx. 14M on the land side, 5M for land management and rest is for technical assistance including admin. costs of the NRCS. This funding is a little more flexible than the one received by the State and allows the recipients to hold the reins a little bit more. This is a new process for everyone, including the for the NRCS. Also, these funds are coming as part of the Farm Bill and not the IRA, and thus may be a little less under the spotlight (i.e. at risk for cuts) with the new administration coming in.

Goals and objectives, with partners, is to protect 10k acres or more of forest, riparian and wetland habitats through conservation easements and restore at least 100 acres of riparian wetlands to address inadequate habitats. They are going to be working with the Lincoln Institute to try to develop some tools and measurements that will help evaluating the effectiveness of our outcomes in the proposal and project and also develop a tool beneficial to all in the future.

Tim thanked all the core partners; he is still in the initial stage of getting the initial grant agreement in place. Next steps include finalizing the PPA draft in January. Other supplemental agreements will come after that. Some pre-selected partner projects will be included at the start, others will be run through a ranking process. Ranking criteria will include land type, flood plain connectivity, carbon quality. diversity values, etc.

Robb asked if the easements selected have to on land owned by a private landowner, or if they could cover parcels that will be owned by land trusts or other non-profits. Tim was not sure and will check on it.

Bob Wilber said he has not seen anything that would preclude a scenario where the fee is acquired by an NGO and an easement is acquired through the RCPP -it can be a viable pathway. Stephen Small added that if something is a required transfer, it is not a deductible.

Laura Johnson asked what Tim and Bob see as potential barriers to success, this is a huge opportunity but what over 5 yrs might be the impediments. Bob shared that the amount of time it can take the RCPP classic requires a lot of

hand holding by NRCS for their legal office approving, which is why they are trying to set up the templates ahead of time. Tim shared that the national review can be challenging, and he's looking out for language even in the initial agreement that can potentially lock them in.

Ashley asked Tim how he was planning to use Mass Audubon's Catalyst Fund along with RCPP? Tim responded that he is working on it. Kathy offered that since MA is not the first going through this process, there may be language from other states that can be helpful in reviewing and adopting. Jamie Pottern added that AFT does have some lessons learned, pros and cons that they can share. Jen Plowden offered to make introductions

6) Policy Update – Emily Myron (MLTC Policy Chair)

a) Updates on priority legislation, funding and administrative action
 (Quarterly Policy Update memo available here after December 11: December 2024 Conservation Partner
 Meeting | Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition)- <u>https://massland.org/events/december-2024-conservation partner-meeting</u>

Emily asked everyone to refer to the written policy update that was sent in advance and is posted on MLTC's website. Highlights include the Climate and Energy bill that was passed and signed in last month. Some really important provisions are included- site suitability analyses for siting future energy infrastructure, increasing community engagement in process, setting up a mitigation program. Lots of opportunities in implementation of this law for the land conservation community.

The Climate Law also includes two natural provisions that we should pay attention to. These include salt marsh restorations so that one can do restoration work on properties with wetlands restriction orders. This had been a barrier to restoration projects in a number of communities and now that that problem has been resolved. Also, the Charles River Watershed Association led the effort to have language added to update flood maps and make those available.

She is hopeful that next legislative session will have more action on natural and working lands, which is part of the state's climate response plan. We also have great goals and recommendations in the clean energy and climate plan. Senator Comerford and Representative Meschino are looking at doing a bill specifically to push the envelope on natural and working lands.

CPA was added to several communities but failed in some. Massachusetts has a two year legislative session, so we're ending now the 2023, 2024 legislative session. The entire Massachusetts legislature is up reelection every two years and we just had a number of environmental champions retire and we need to start thinking about who are some of the new champions that we're going to need to be cultivating. So, if in your service area, you have a new senator or representative, meet with them early and often. Make sure that they know who you are and what issues are important to you.

Robb shared that the policy committee of MLTC has a tentative priorities list. They will see in January what's filed there will be a top tier legislative priorities list. With limited staff capacity the other bills will be see MLTC in a supportive capacity.

Emily shared that we are a part of a coalition that is working on developing priorities for the Environmental Bond Bill to share with EEA and then to bring to the legislature. We always advocate for the state operating budget; the Green Budget Coalition is currently in the process of defining priorities. We're all anticipating the next year is going to be a pretty tough budget year. The Conservation Finance Coalition has been meeting for over a year to think about how they might develop a dedicated funding source for land conservation, restoration, stewardship, outdoor recreation and climate. The group is working to submit a bill that would dedicate a portion of the sales tax on sporting goods towards these efforts. This has been done in several other states, so it's not raising taxes. It's just taking the tax that is already collected on sporting good sales and dedicating it to conservation. Robb added that MLTC is also a part of the coalition and is looking for private landowners where the person who died didn't have a will or where partition sales were implemented because of access to estate planning. MLTC is focused on the impact on lower income land

owners so that the legislation creates an equitable process through Heirs Property legislation that will be reintroduced in January.

Emily is leaving TNC at the end of next week and has accepted a job with Mass Wildlife . She is planning to continue on MLTC's Board but will be stepping down from the policy committee. Emily has been doing this for 7 years and remains committed to supporting our efforts moving forward. Her email contact going forward: epmyron@gmail.com. She was congratulated and thanked by all for her continuing contributions.

7) Committee and Working Group Updates

a) Early Career Conservation Network – Mariah Fogg (Land Trust Alliance)

The ECCN is an effort of MLTC and meant to serve as a supportive community for those in their first ten years of the land conservation profession in Massachusetts. They have launched a yearlong mentor program that required applications from mentors and mentees, and made some intentional matches. They have 8 matches, headed into quarterly meetings with structured support from the Network. They recently held the virtual kickoff, and hope to meet in person soon. They are excited to see impact, and eventually expand with MLTC support. Mariah thanked all who have stepped up as mentors.

The Network is also planning our preconference gathering, Thursday March 20th this year in Amherst. We will have a special speaker and are working out details for the networking sessions. Events should be on our website soon.

b) Amicus Committee – Buzz Constable (MLTC Board))

The land court has made a decision on a path used from Concord to Acton on a trail pathway. The dispute between town and the abutters is on whether this trail is a public road or not. The land court and Court of appeals have found it to be a public way. It is theoretically relevant to the land trusts but it's a very complex matter of facts having to do with when a road is created or when a road is discontinued or abandoned - two very important words in all of this.

Defendants are asking the Supreme Judicial Court to review the lower court's decision. This committee is following closely; some trails that we think we have all the rights might not be so. It is unclear if someone can pave it over. We did not sign on to the request for SJC review but are tracking closely.

c) Agriculture – Kathy Orlando (Sheffield Land Trust)

We are looking at whole farm protection, being able to do pre acquisitions and private APRs and will be regathering in the new year. As the farmland action plan moves forward, we can help increase the pace of ag. conservation in the spate. The APR program has said it does not have the resources to meet their goals, There are a lot of new resources that can help us with this, so if you want to get involved with farm land conservation efforts, please do reach out.

Jamie Pottern shared that we have a great guiding document. She also shared that the MA Farmland Action Plan has a goal of "no net farmland loss" but we are projected to lose an additional 74,000 acres of farmland by 2040 under "business as usual" levels of conservation. We really need every conservation entity to step up and rise to this challenge.

Emily Myron thought it might be a good model to host an annual lobby day similar to one hosted by Mass Rivers Alliance. Janet Milkman said hosting your delegation locally is a great way to be building relationships with your local state elected officials and is not hard to organize. Robb said MLTC is happy to help land trusts organize such local gatherings. Robb shared that a lobby day is possible again, but would likely have to be done in coordination with our statewide partners There is a food systems briefing for new legislators on Jan 7 on beacon hill and he is looking for volunteers to represent MLTC there in his absence.

- 8) Other announcements
 - Steve Small- asked about the new AI minute taking feature and Robb clarified that it would help Vidya take notes. It is not a recording.
 - Bob Wilber said he will convene a working group to work on the next version of the model CR in calendar 2025
 - Heidi Ricci shared that Mass Audubon's new Conservation in Action certificate program helps individuals build their knowledge and skills in conservation efforts in their community and statewide- includes land conservation and related topics. It comprises of 10 sessions, mostly virtual. <u>https://www.massaudubon.org/programs-events/adult-learning/conservation-in-action-certificateprogram</u>
 - Jamie Pottern shared that if your town has not yet designated Farmland of Local Importance, or you would like access to this data for your strategic conservation purposes, see this resource or reach out to kdoherty@farmland.org https://farmlandinfo.org/tools/ma-farmland-local-importance-screening-tool/

Robb thanked all for their participation today.

9) Adjourn

12:07 p.m. Buzz moved and Rita seconded the motion to adjourn. Hearing no further discussion, Kathy called the vote to adjourn. **VOTE:** Unanimous

Respectfully submitted, Vidya Tikku, MLTC clerk