

Jennifer Tabakin
Town Manager

E-mail: jtabakin@townofgb.org
www.townofgb.org



Town Hall, 334 Main Street
Great Barrington, MA 01230

Telephone: (413) 528-1619 x2
Fax: (413) 528-2290

TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON MASSACHUSETTS

OFFICE OF THE TOWN MANAGER

SELECTBOARD'S MEETING AGENDA

MONDAY, APRIL 11, 2016

7:00 PM – REGULAR SESSION

TOWN HALL, 334 MAIN STREET

ORDER OF AGENDA

7:00 PM - OPEN MEETING

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- March 14, 2016 Regular Meeting.
- March 28, 2016 Regular Meeting.

3. BOARD OF SEWER COMMISSIONERS: Sewer Abatements (July 1 – December 31, 2015). (Discussion/Vote)

4. SELECTBOARD'S ANNOUNCEMENTS/STATEMENTS:

- A. General Comments by the Board.

5. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT:

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

- A. Application of Chu & Chen Group, Inc. d/b/a Koi Chinese Restaurant, Richard T. Chen, Manager to transfer the Common Victualler Restaurant All Alcoholic Liquor License to Koi Asian Gourmet, Inc. d/b/a Koi Chinese Restaurant, Hui Zong Zheng, Manager at 302 State Road, Great Barrington, MA 01230. (Discussion/Vote)
 - a. Open Public Hearing
 - b. Explanation of Project
 - c. Speak in Favor/Opposition
 - d. Motion to Close Public Hearing
 - e. Motion re: Findings
 - f. Motion re: Approval/Denial/Table

7. LICENSES OR PERMITS:

A. American Legion Murphy Leary Post 298 as follows:

- for permission to hold Poppy Boot Drive on Main Street (between Gashouse Lane and the entrance to JB Hull Oil Inc.) on Saturday, May 21, 2016 (rain date May 28) from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm. (Discussion/Vote)
- to hand out Poppies for donations in Great Barrington and in the Village of Housatonic. (Discussion/Vote)

B. Relay for Life-American Cancer Society/Kerry MacRonald for Two (2) One Day Weekday Entertainment Licenses for June 24 and 25, 2016 from 6:00 pm – 2:00 pm at Monument Mountain Regional High School track and baseball field. (Discussion/Vote)

C. 2016 May License Renewals (Discussion/Vote)

- Real Estate Sign
- Coin Operated Soft Drink and Food Machines

8. NEW BUSINESS:

A. SB – To Authorize Refinancing of Fire Station Bonds. (Discussion/Vote)

B. SB – To approve Solar Tax Agreement for Van Deusenville Road project subject to Town Meeting approval. (Discussion/Vote)

C. SB – Letter of Support for the Western Mass Forest Legacy Designation. (Discussion/Vote)

D. SB – Letter of Support to Senator Warren for Environment Massachusetts for protection of public parks. (Discussion/Vote)

E. Arbor Day Proclamation April 29, 2016. (Discussion/Vote)

F. Town Manager's Contract. (Discussion/Vote)

9. OLD BUSINESS:

A. SB – Final Review of 2016 Annual Town Meeting Warrant Articles. (Discussion/Vote)

10. CITIZEN SPEAK TIME:

11. SELECTBOARD'S TIME:

12. MEDIA TIME:

13. ADJOURNMENT:

NEXT SELECTBOARD'S MEETING: Monday, April 25, 2016, 7:00 P.M.


Jennifer Tabakin, Town Manager

Pursuant to MGL. c. 30A sec. 20 (f), after notifying the chair of the public body, any person may make a video or audio recording of an open session of a meeting of a public body, or may transmit the meeting through any medium. At the beginning of the meeting, the chair shall inform other attendees of any such recordings. Any member of the public wishing to speak at the meeting must receive permission of the chair. The listings of agenda items are those reasonably anticipated by the chair which may be discussed at the meeting. Not all items listed may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.



**TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON
MASSACHUSETTS**

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 25, 2016

TO: Jennifer Tabakin, Town Manager

FROM: Joe Sokul, DPW Superintendent

SUBJECT: Sewer Abatements – for the Period 07/01/2015 through 12/31/2015

Tim Drumm, WWTP Superintendent, and I met to discuss the requests of those persons applying for an abatement of their sewer bill. After careful consideration of the information submitted and field data gathered during site visits, we herewith make the following recommendations relative to those applications.

On the attached table the following temporary and permanent sewer abatement applications were received and approved for the reason stated on the application.

Sewer Abatements - 01.01.2014 through 056.30.2014

APPLICANT	ACCOUNT NUMBER	SERVICE ADDRESS	CURRENT BILLING	ABATEMENT	DURATION
Patrick Hollenbeck	IF00000118	1075 Main St. - Housatonic	\$460.00	\$115.00	Temp.
<i>2nd Unit is Vacant</i>					
Robert Holcomb	1F00014268	34-36 Cottage St.	\$460.00	\$115.00	Temp.
<i>Two units one is unoccupied</i>					
Margaret Minges	1F00014231	31 Dresser Ave	\$920.00	\$115.00	Temp.
<i>Unit was unoccupied as was last billing period. Correctly billed now.</i>					
Jane & Howard Jacobs	1F00001100	1078 Main St. - Housatonic	\$805.00	\$460.00	Temp.
<i>Changing from Multifamily to Single w/Apartment</i>					
James Haughian	1F00010184	207 Cottage St. - Housatonic	\$230.00	\$115.00	Temp.
<i>House Vacant</i>					
Town of GB	IF00010165	207 Pleasant St.- Housatonic	\$230.00	\$115.00	Temp.
<i>School is vacant - Water shut off</i>					
Dorothy Capasse	IF00002022	228 East Street	\$230.00	\$115.00	Temp.
<i>Dwelling is vacant</i>					
George Guerreo	IF00001353	127/129 Castle Hill	\$920.00	\$230.00	Temp.
<i>Units 129 A-B vacant - under renovation</i>					
Jean Holcomb	IF00001136	226 Prospect St.	\$460.00	\$115.00	Temp.
<i>Apartment is vacant</i>					
Donna Mooney	1F00014264	24B Cottage St.	\$460.00	\$230.00	Temp.
<i>House vacant</i>					
Shirley Snyder	1F00003830A	945 Main St.	\$230.00	\$115.00	Temp.
<i>No water usage</i>					
Eric Gabriel	1F0000161	9 Kirk Street	\$230.00	\$115.00	Temp.
<i>House is under renovation</i>					
Ruth Bronz	1F00000190	5 Meadow St.	\$460.00	\$230.00	Perm.
<i>2 Family to Single Family</i>					
Natasha Perlis & Louis Juska	1F00013127	142 Castle St.	\$920.00	\$690.00	Perm.
<i>4 Unit to Single Family</i>					
Green House Ptnrs.	IF00002005	27 Humphrey St.	\$460.00	\$460.00	Perm.
<i>Water Shut Off - Bldgs demolished</i>					
Town of GB	IF00010234	220 Highland St. - Housatonic	\$2,760.00	\$2,760.00	Perm.
<i>House is Vacant - Water shut off</i>					
Charles Lord	1F00000012	7 High St. - Housatonic	\$460.00	\$115.00	Temp.
<i>Only studio apartment in use.</i>					
Town of GB	1F00013113	9 Railroad Ave.	\$1,380.00	\$1,380.00	Perm.
<i>House foreclosed on</i>					
Richard Brousseau	1F1326-K	25 Lake Ave.	\$230.00	\$230.00	Perm.
<i>Billing change</i>					
Karl Lipsky, Estate of	1F99 - 1	420 Stockbridge Road	\$230.00	\$115.00	Perm
<i>No water or bathroom facilities</i>					
TOTALS			\$12,535.00	\$7,935.00	

Berkshire
Record

3/18/16

**TOWN OF GREAT
BARRINGTON
NOTICE OF PUBLIC
HEARING**

The Selectboard will hold a public hearing on Monday, April 11, 2016

at 7:00 P.M. at the Town Hall, 334 Main Street, Great Barrington, MA to act on the application for a transfer of Common Victualler All Alcoholic Restaurant Liquor License from Chu & Chen Group, Inc. d/b/a Koi Chinese Restaurant, Richard T. Chen, Manager to Koi Asian Gourmet, Inc. d/b/a Koi Chinese Restaurant, Hui Zong Zheng, Manager at 302 State Road, Great Barrington, MA 01230.

Sean Stanton
Chair

3.18, 3.25

#2292

RECEIVED
TOWN MANAGER
MAR 21 2016
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
GREAT BARRINGTON, MA

American Legion
Murphy - Leary Post 298
Cone Avenue
Housatonic, Ma.

March 20, 2016

To the: Select-Board and Town Manager

The Murphy-Leary Post 298 request permission to hold a Poppy Boot Drive on Main Street, Great Barrington. The boot drive will take place in the road between Gashouse Lane and the entrance to JB Hull Oil Inc. Date requested Saturday May 21st. Rain date May 28th. hours 10 am - 2 pm.

The American Legion adopted the Memorial Poppy in September 1920 in remembrance with the great lost of life during The Great War of 1914-1918. Money raised during the collection supports the welfare of local veterans.

I look foreword to attending your meeting to address any concerns you may have.

Sincerely:

Andy Moro
Commander
Post 298
413-770-3002



RECEIVED
TOWN MANAGER
MAR 21 2016
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
GREAT BARRINGTON, MA

American Legion
Murphy - Leary Post 298
Cone Avenue
Housatonic, Ma

March 20, 2016

To: Select-Board and Town Manager

The Murphy-Leary Post 298 request permission to hand out Poppies for donations in Great Barrington and the Village of Housatonic during the month of May.

The American Legion adopted the Memorial Poppy in September 1920 in remembrance with the great lost of life during The Great War of 1914-1918. Money raised during the collection supports the welfare of local veterans.

I look foreword to answering any concerns you may have.

Sincerely:

Andy Moro
Commander
Post 298
413-770-3002



ORIGINAL

RECEIVED
TOWN MANAGER

MAR 02 2016

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
GREAT BARRINGTON, MA



TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON
Temporary Weekday Entertainment License Application
\$25.00 per day x 2 = \$50.00

The undersigned hereby applies for a license in accordance with the provisions of MA General Laws, Ch.140 Sec.183A amended, Ch.351, Sec.85 of Acts of 1981 and Ch.140 Sec.181.

Name: Henry MacRonald
Business/Organization: Relay for Life - American Cancer Society
D/B/A (if applicable): _____
Address: 59 Bobala Rd Suite 2, Holyoke MA 01040
Mailing Address: same
Phone Number: 413 664 3739
Email: Kmacronaba@gmail.com

TYPE: (Check all that apply) Concert Dance Exhibition Cabaret DJ
 Live band with up to 10 pieces, including singers Public Show
 Other (please explain) _____

INCLUDES: Live music Recorded music Dancing by entertainers/ performers
 Dancing by patrons Amplification system Theatrical exhibition
 Floorshow Play Moving picture show Light show Jukebox
 Other (please explain) _____

As part of the entertainment, will any person be permitted to appear on the premises in any manner or attire as to expose to public view any portion of the pubic area, anus, or genitals, or any simulation thereof, or whether any person will be permitted to appear on the premises in any manner or attire as to expose to public view a portion of the breast below the top of the areola, or any simulation thereof? (M.G.L.Chp.140 Sec.183A)

___ YES

NO

Please circle: **INDOOR** or **OUTDOOR** Entertainment

Exact Location of Entertainment (include sketch): monument mountain
High school, track + baseball field

Date(s) of Entertainment*: June 24th + June 25th
*Does not include SUNDAY

Start & End Times of Entertainment: 6pm - 2pm

Does your event involve any of the following? (Check all that apply)

- Food Temporary Bathrooms Tents Stages Temporary Signs
 Electrical Permits Building Permits Police Traffic Details Street Closures

ALL entertainment licenses will be reviewed by the Design Review Team (DRT), which is comprised of several Town departments, for comments/concerns on this application.

Pursuant to M.G.L. Ch. 62C, Sec. 49A, I certify under the penalties of perjury that I, to my best knowledge and belief, have filed all state tax returns and paid all state taxes required under law.

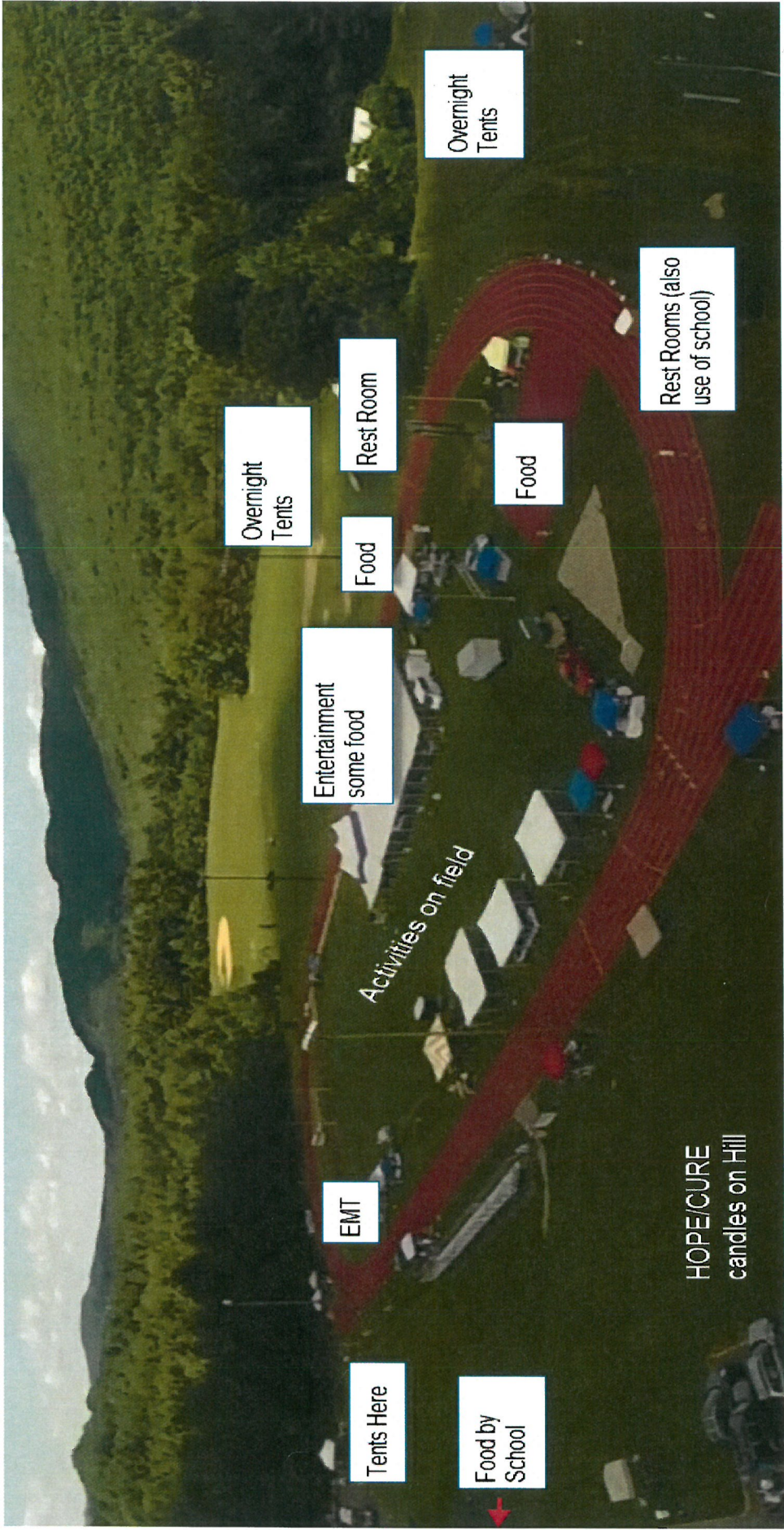
Berry Macdonald 2/22/16 01561694
Signature of Individual or Date SS# or FID#
Corporate Officer

TOWN USE ONLY:

DRT Review with Conditions: DRT reviewed on 3/8/16 and has
no concerns. (CP)

APPROVAL DATE: _____

LICENSE # _____



Overnight
Tents

Rest Rooms (also
use of school)

Rest Room

Food

Overnight
Tents

Food

Entertainment
some food

Activities on field

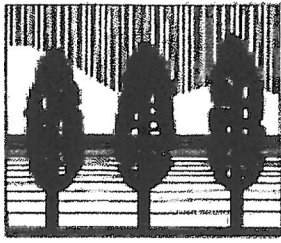
EMT

HOPE/CURE
candles on Hill

Tents Here

Food by
School





BERKSHIRE HILLS REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

GREAT BARRINGTON • STOCKBRIDGE • WEST STOCKBRIDGE

50 MAIN STREET • P.O. BOX 617 • STOCKBRIDGE, MA 01262 • (413) 298-4017

March 15, 2016

Kerry Macronald
Stephanie Bosley

Re: Relay for Life 2016

Dear Kerry and Stephanie,

Your request to hold the 2016 Relay for Life at Monument Mountain High School on June 24th and 25th has been approved. We understand that the set up for the event will start on Thursday, June 23rd with the actual walk starting on Friday the 24th and ending on Saturday the 25th.

We will work to duplicate the event held in 2013, 2014 and 2015 and make any adjustments we all feel would be beneficial to the event and participants. Like last year we will have a custodian on duty the entire time, we will provide a trash dumpster and a recycling dumpster, porta-potties, trash receptacles, garbage bags, toilet paper, sand and ice from the ice machine. We will make the bathrooms available for the event as well as one classroom to act as the accounting area for the event.

Once again the school district will need is a certificate of insurance naming "Berkshire Hills Regional School District" as additionally insured on the American Cancer Society's insurance policy for those three days. Additionally, it is the Relay's organizer's responsibility to receive any and all permissions/permits from the different town offices in Great Barrington that might be necessary.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions and concerns and stay in touch as the dates approach in order to ensure we are well organized for the three days. Berkshire Hills Regional School District is very proud to host such a great fund-raiser and look forward to working with you to make this years' walk as successful as it can be.

Sincerely,

Steven T. Soule
Director of Operations
Berkshire Regional School District

MAY 2016 LICENSE RENEWALS

REAL ESTATE SIGN LICENSES:

1. Barnbrook Realty Corporation
2. Corashire Realty
3. Isgood Realty
4. Lance Vermeulen Real Estate, Inc.
5. Wheeler & Taylor Realty
6. Berkshire Property Agents
7. Roberts & Associates Realty, Inc.
8. Cohen & White Associates
9. Stone House Properties, LLC
10. The Kinderhook Group Inc.
11. Berkshire Country Homes LLC
12. Helen Mullany Real Estate LLC
13. wm. Brockman Real Estate LLC
14. William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty
15. Friday & Co. Real Estate
16. Gateway Berkshire Real Estate & Services LLC
17. MacCaro Real Estate
18. Sandra Preston Real Estate
19. Benchmark Real Estate

COIN OPERATED SOFT DRINK & FOOD MACHINES LICENSES:

1. Holiday Inn Express
2. Big Y Foods, Inc.
3. i.e. Inc.
4. Butternut Basin, Inc.
5. Fairview Hospital
6. Wind in the Pines
7. Coca Cola Refreshments USA Inc. (For: Travelodge, Seward's Tires and S&A Supply)
8. Berkshire South Regional Community Center



TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON MASSACHUSETTS

OFFICE OF PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Christopher Rembold, AICP
Town Planner

Ph: (413) 528-1619, ext. 7
crembold@townofgb.org

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

TITLE: Forest Legacy Program

BACKGROUND: The Forest Legacy Program (FLP) is a federal-state partnership to promote the long-term integrity and protection of privately owned forest lands. These forests provide essential wildlife habitat, protect water quality, offer recreation opportunities, afford outstanding scenic views, may be home to historic sites, and/or provide the opportunity to continue traditional forest uses. The FLP can allow landowners to keep their land private while ensuring it remains forest forever through the use of conservation easements.

With FLP funds it is possible to permanently conserve vast tracts of important forest land. The 600+ acre Alford Springs Preserve in Alford, for example, on the Taconic ridge that borders New York State, was preserved in 2002 with nearly \$1 million in funding from this program. It was slated to be a subdivision.

Much of Great Barrington and Berkshire County has large unbroken stands of important forest that are not permanently protected. In Great Barrington, the Master Plan and Open Space and Recreation Plan identify "priority conservation areas," including forested areas that are not permanently protected. These include, for example, parts of East Mountain, Monument Valley, and Tom Ball Mountain above Long Pond (some of these are in Chapter land designation already).

Unfortunately, landowners and conservation groups are not able to access the funding from the FLP for lands in Great Barrington, since we are not in a designated Forest Legacy area. The Western Mass Forest Legacy Partnership, which includes local conservation advocates, is attempting to remedy that problem by designating a new area that includes Western Massachusetts.


Great Barrington's support of this designation is requested.

More information is attached to this summary.

FISCAL IMPACT: None; this is only a letter of support.

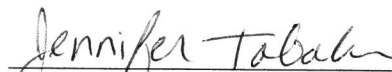
RECOMMENDATION: The Selectboard support the proposal to designate a new Forest Legacy area to include western Massachusetts, and authorize the Chair to sign a letter of support on the Town's behalf.

PREPARED BY:


Town Planner

DATE: 4/6/16

APPROVED BY:


Town Manager

DATE: 4/8/16

WESTERN MASS FOREST LEGACY PARTNERSHIP

RECEIVED
TOWN MANAGER

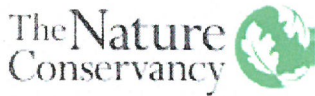
MAR 14 2016

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
GREAT BARRINGTON, MA



March 7, 2016

Dear Municipal Officials:



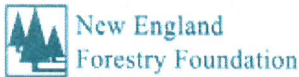
We are writing to inform you of a partnership forming to help access funds that are available to protect working and wild forests in western Massachusetts through a new Forest Legacy designation, and to ask your support for this effort.



The Forest Legacy Program (FLP) was established in 1990 as a federal-state partnership to promote the long-term integrity and protection of privately-owned forest lands. Since its inception, the program has dispersed millions of dollars each year to fund land conservation projects that support traditional forest uses, including economic development through forest wood products and forestry jobs, maintenance of public water supplies, recreational opportunities, and critical wildlife habitat.



Massachusetts formally joined the program in 1993, and was one of the first states to do so. While the Commonwealth now has eight Forest Legacy Areas which are able to access the program's funding, the majority of western Massachusetts—a region with one of the largest intact forest blocks remaining in New England and where forest resources are critical for the economic well-being and quality of life in many communities—is not currently designated.



A newly proposed Forest Legacy area would close this gap and cover many towns in western Massachusetts stretching from the Connecticut River to the New York border, with the exception of the twenty-one towns in Franklin and Berkshire Counties currently considering another program with the U.S. Forest Service. However, the final boundaries of the proposed FLA are still in discussion. Again, a new Forest Legacy Area would only serve to access another funding source for potential forest conservation projects that involve willing, private landowners. There is no regulatory structure imposed on the area, and no landowner is obligated to participate.



This effort to designate a Forest Legacy Area in Western Massachusetts is being led by a coalition of public and non-profit organizations including Kestrel Land Trust, the New England Forestry Foundation, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, Hilltown Land Trust, The Nature Conservancy, Berkshire Natural Resources Council and the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), among many other partners.



To support the Western Mass Forest Legacy Area designation proposal, please submit a letter of support on behalf of your town explaining how additional funding for the protection of working woodlands will benefit your community. A model letter of support is attached for your use.



OVER

We look forward to working with you to bring this additional conservation funding resource to serve your community and our region, and we hope to earn your support. If you have any questions or would like to learn more information about how to support this effort, please contact our Western Mass Forest Legacy Partnership Coordinator Anne Capra at anne@conservationworksllc.com or (413) 824-1148.

Sincerely,

Anne Capra
Western Mass Forest Legacy
Partnership Coordinator

MAIL LETTERS OF SUPPORT TO:

Conservation Works LLC
c/o Anne Capra
P.O. Box 705
North Hatfield, MA 01066

EXCERPT

A LAND TRUST'S GUIDE TO Partnering with the Forest Legacy Program



United States
Department of Agriculture

Forest Service

Northeastern Area
State and Private Forestry

11 Campus Boulevard, Suite 200
Newtown Square, PA 19073

February 2009

www.na.fs.fed.us

Connecticut Lakes, New Hampshire—The Forest Legacy
Program protects important forest areas for future generations.

The Forest Legacy Program (FLP) is a voluntary private land conservation partnership between the U.S. Forest Service, Department of Agriculture; participating States; land trusts; private landowners; and others.

This guide to the FLP offers a description of the application and acquisition process, from a land trust's perspective, as well as helpful tips for more effectively navigating each phase. Whether your land trust has a specific project in the works or simply wants to become more familiar with the FLP, this guide will explore the different roles that your organization can play within the FLP.



Program Purpose

The purpose of the FLP is to identify and protect important forest areas that are threatened by conversion to non-forest uses via acquisition of all or partial interests in privately owned forest lands. The FLP purpose does not include the protection of other working lands such as farms or homesteads. There can be a limited percentage of a property in "compatible non-forest uses." Residential, commercial or industrial uses are not allowed with the exception of traditional forest uses.

The FLP is a partnership between participating States and the Forest Service. These two entities work together to identify important forest areas and protect them for future generations.

The FLP encourages protection of working forests that in fact provide public benefits as well as forest resources to meet the needs of the local community and the Nation. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs), such as land trusts that have compatible goals and purposes, assist or partner with State agencies to complete FLP projects.

Before proceeding with a FLP application, contact your State partner for information about the specific priorities and procedures of the FLP in your State and whether your project might qualify. Each State has a different way of administering the program. It is important for a land trust to be familiar with its State rules and regulations, and to start early on each step of the FLP application.



Wild River, Wisconsin—The Forest Legacy Program (FLP) encourages continuation of traditional forest uses such as managed timber harvesting.



Program Characteristics



Conservation easements are a common tool used to protect land through the FLP. Other less frequently used protection tools include full-fee purchase, voluntary deed restrictions, covenants and agreements.

Priority is given to lands that can be effectively managed and that have important scenic or recreational values; riparian areas; fish and wildlife values, including threatened or endangered species; or other ecological values.

It is important that landowners know that the FLP is based on a “willing seller and willing buyer” concept. The landowner must be notified by the State in writing that any proposed acquisition is strictly voluntary.

The interests in land may be held by the Federal, State or local government. The lands or interests are held in perpetuity. Once a property becomes a part of the FLP, the conservation easement holder must monitor the land at least annually. When the Federal government holds a FLP easement, State or local units of government agree to take on the conservation easement administration responsibilities.

Every conservation easement property protected by the FLP requires a Forest Stewardship Plan or multi-resource management plan that:

1. addresses the landowner’s objectives for natural resource management,
2. meets State program requirements, and
3. is approved by the State Forester or designee.

FLP funding usually is delivered via a Federal grant made to a State. Each State FLP supports national priorities to protect environmentally important forest lands. Each participating State must develop an Assessment of Need (AON). The AON describes the need for the program in the State and defines how the State plans to

implement the FLP. The AON also identifies important forest areas, which are officially designated as Forest Legacy Areas (FLAs). Lands targeted for protection must fall within designated FLAs identified in each State’s AON.

The State lead agency and the State Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee (membership is defined by law and can include land trust representation) identify statewide priority tracts. The Forest Service handles National Prioritization.

The Federal share of FLP projects cannot exceed 75 percent of total costs. Nonprofit organizations can help by providing some or the entire non-Federal share of the costs.

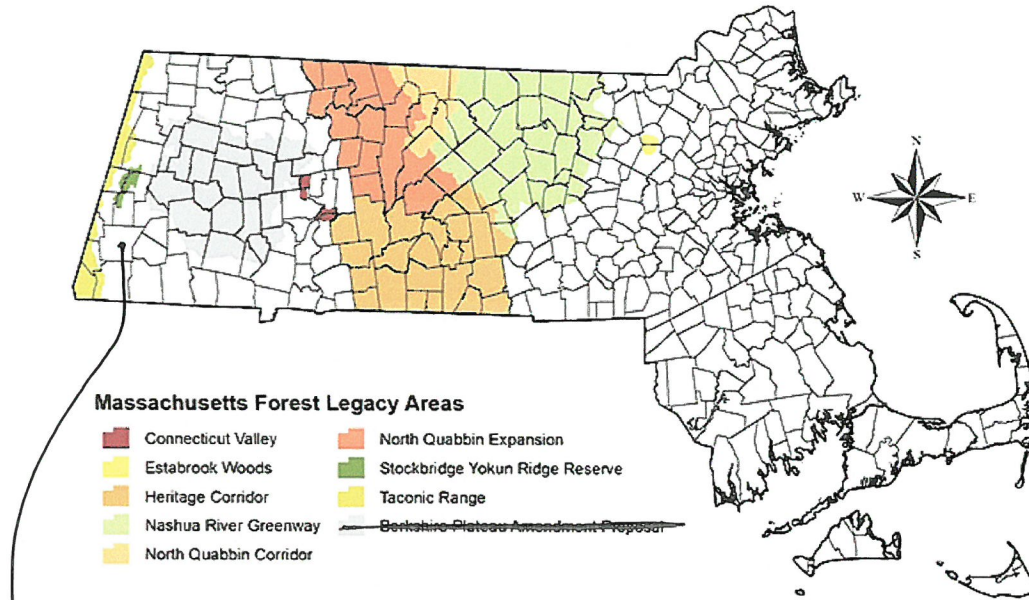
Your project may have increased potential for success if you are familiar with your State’s application process, its AON, and Forest Service ranking priorities.



Broad Creek, Maryland—All activities on property protected through the FLP are done in accordance with an approved Forest Stewardship Plan or multi-resource management plan.



MASSACHUSETTS FOREST LEGACY AREAS



GB & much of Berkshire are not currently FL areas.

Dear Town of Great Barrington Selectboard,

As local elected officials in Great Barrington, I'm sure you understand the importance of green spaces and the value of our parks and public lands, such as the nearby Appalachian Trail.

The health benefits of getting outside are many – especially for our kids. In fact, children spend only thirty minutes a day playing outdoors compared to nearly seven hours in front of a screen.ⁱ Spending time outdoors benefits children by lowering their stress levels,ⁱⁱ protecting them from problems like heart disease and diabetes,ⁱⁱⁱ and reducing symptoms of ADHD.^{iv} But of course, being out in nature provides health benefits to everyone.

Our parks can also drive local economies. Numerous studies show that public lands—whether a small park or an iconic national landmark – benefit the local economy in numerous ways. In 2013, local and regional public park agencies across the US generated close to \$140 billion and supported nearly 1 million jobs.^v In 2014, while visiting national parks, guests spent more than \$15 billion in surrounding communities.^{vi}

We are anxious to ensure that the opportunity to explore and benefit from our most special places remains available to all Americans today, and for years to come. Thus, we are concerned about some of the threats facing our parks, including chronic underfunding resulting in a \$12 billion repair backlog, developments from private-interests, and even land auction proposals by a few extremists in Congress.

In this year of the Centennial of the National Park Service, and with National Park Week beginning on April 16th, we have a great opportunity to highlight the importance of our parks—from local greenspaces to our iconic national parks like the Grand Canyon. So, it is critical that we encourage Senator Warren, a long-time supporter of our parks, to speak out as a champion for our public parks so we can ensure that they remain as vibrant in another 100 years as they are today.

We are working to get elected officials across Massachusetts, such as yourselves, to join us in calling on Senator Warren to stand up and speak out for our parks by signing our letter. We would greatly appreciate being able to add your names.

Thank you for your time, and please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

John Romano
Campaign Organizer, Environment Massachusetts
294 Washington Street, Suite 500
Boston, MA 02108
617-747-4447

ⁱ <http://www.nwf.org/What-We-Do/Kids-and-Nature/Why-Get-Kids-Outside/Health-Benefits.aspx>

Rideout, Victoria et al. (2005). Generation M: Media in the Lives of 8-18 Year-Olds. The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation.

ⁱⁱ Kuo, PhD, Frances E., and Andrea Faber Taylor, PhD. "A Potential Natural Treatment for Attention- Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder: Evidence From a National Study." American Journal of Public Health 94.9. Sept. 2004.

ⁱⁱⁱ American Academy of Pediatrics. "Many Children have suboptimal Vitamin D Levels." Pediatrics. October 26, 2009. <http://www.aap.org/advocacy/releases/oct2609studies.htm>

^{iv} Study: Wells, N.M. (2000). At Home with Nature: Effects of "greenness" on children's cognitive functioning. Environment and Behavior (32), 6, pp 775-795. <http://eab.sagepub.com/cgi/content/abstract/32/6/775>

^v <http://www.nrpa.org/parkeconreport/>

^{vi} <http://www.nature.nps.gov/socialscience/vse.cfm>

SEAN A. STANTON
CHAIR

STEPHEN C. BANNON
DANIEL BAILLY
EDWARD ABRAHAMS
WILLIAM COOKE



Town Hall, 334 Main Street
Great Barrington, MA 01230

Telephone: (413) 528-1619 x2
Fax: (413) 528-2290
website: www.townofgb.org

TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON MASSACHUSETTS

SELECTBOARD

April 11, 2016

Dear Senator Warren,

We, the undersigned elected officials from across Massachusetts write to thank you for your past efforts to stand up for our public parks, and we call on you to do even more to elevate the importance of our parks especially during this year –the Centennial of the National Park Service. We all know that spending time outside is good for our health. And as local officials we are well aware that access to our parks – whether an urban green space or one of our iconic national wonders is a great benefit to our citizens and our community.

We are anxious to ensure that the opportunity to explore and benefit from our most special places remains available to all Americans today and for years to come.

The need for public parks has never been greater – especially for our kids. Today the average child spends only thirty minutes a day playing outdoors compared to nearly seven hours in front of a screen. This is detrimental to kids' physical, mental, and emotional health and it denies our children the experience of enjoying the outdoors. But of course, experiencing nature benefits all of us. A recent study showed that strolling in a leafy green area even briefly made people happier and more attentive and it changed their brain function in positive ways.

Our parks are great economic drivers as well. Numerous studies show that public lands—whether a local park or an iconic national park – benefit the local economy in numerous ways. In 2013, local and regional public park agencies across the US generated close to \$140 billion and supported nearly 1 million jobs. In 2014, while visiting national parks, visitors spent more than \$15 billion in surrounding communities.

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service. We are calling on you to speak out about the importance of our public parks. And we hope you will do everything you can to keep our public lands in public hands, to ensure they are well-funded and maintained, and to protect them from pollution or other threats. Together we can make sure all Americans can experience the wonders of the great outdoors today and for the next 100 years.

Sincerely,

Sean Stanton, Chair

Stephen Bannon

Daniel Bailly

Edward Abrahams

William Cooke

SEAN A. STANTON
CHAIR

STEPHEN C. BANNON
DANIEL BAILLY
EDWARD ABRAHAMS
WILLIAM COOKE



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Arbor Day Proclamation, 2016

Town of Great Barrington, Massachusetts

Whereas, Arbor Day celebrates the role of trees in our lives and promotes tree planting and care. It was initiated in 1872 by J. Sterling Morton of Nebraska City who said "Other holidays focus upon the past; Arbor Day focuses on the future". Arbor Day is now celebrated throughout the nation and the world.

Whereas, trees are important, we couldn't live without them: they clean the air and produce the oxygen we breathe. They provide habitat for wildlife and help to keep the climate in balance. They give us paper, wood for our homes, fuel for our fires and countless other wood products.

Whereas, trees increase property values, and enhance the beauty and vitality of our community.

Whereas, planting trees is an act of kindness and optimism. The celebration of Arbor Day represents a priceless opportunity for all of you to take positive actions and make your world a better place.

Therefore, we, the members of the Selectboard of the Town of Great Barrington, Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim **April 29th, 2016**, to be known as ARBOR DAY in Great Barrington, and we urge all citizens to celebrate Arbor Day planting and caring for trees, and to support efforts in our Town to protect our trees.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, We have hereunto set our hands this 11th day of April, 2016.

Sean Stanton, Chair

Stephen C. Bannon

Daniel Bailly

Edward Abrahams

William Cooke