

Community Partnership Meetings to Discuss a New Forest Designation

Please come to learn about and discuss an opportunity for your town to increase natural resource-based economic development and forest conservation

The Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) and Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC), with the assistance of the Franklin Land Trust, are conducting public outreach to determine the level of interest in a new model of assistance and involvement by the State and the U.S. Forest Service which could provide federal funds to expand forestry activities on privately-owned land and to support forestry and tourism-based businesses. The purpose of this initiative is to conserve forests, increase economic development that is based on sustainable forestry and recreational tourism, and improve the fiscal stability of municipalities. With enough interest from communities, the U.S. Forest Service could be requested to designate an area which would be eligible to receive this assistance.

The FRCOG will be holding meetings through mid-April in the following Franklin County towns: Ashfield, Buckland, Charlemont, Colrain, Conway, Hawley, Heath, Leyden, Monroe, Rowe, and Shelburne. Meetings are open to the public and municipal officials, residents, business owners, landowners, and foresters are encouraged to attend the meeting scheduled for your town. Meetings have been held in Charlemont, Buckland, Conway, Shelburne, Heath, Ashfield, and Rowe (if you missed the meeting for your town, you are welcome to attend a meeting in another town). The next four meetings are listed below:

Leyden

March 25, 2014 • 6 - 8 PM • Leyden Town Hall • 16 West Leyden Road • Snow date March 26

Hawley

April 1, 2014 • 6 - 8 PM • Hawley Town Offices • 8 Pudding Hollow Road

Colrain

April 9, 2014 • 6 - 8 PM • Colrain Central School • 22 Jacksonville Road

Monroe

April 17, 2014 • 6 - 8 PM • Monroe Town Hall • 3C School Street