



## Estate Planning Outreach Grants For Open Space Committees

The future of our landscape will depend on the decisions of Massachusetts' private landowners – they own the vast majority of the woods, farms, and natural areas in the Commonwealth. Open Space Committees are uniquely positioned to know how best to reach out and engage with these landowners. Committee members know how best to provide them with the information, resources, and connections they need as they think about the future of their land.

The Estate Planning Outreach Grants support Open Space Committees' efforts to inform landowners about all manner of land conservation and land stewardship opportunities, such as placing a conservation restriction on their land, enrolling in Chapter 61, obtaining a Forest Stewardship Plan, or figuring out how best to pass the land on to heirs. These grants can be used to fund mailings, refreshments, fact sheets, speakers, and other related expenses.

Activities might include:

- A neighborhood gathering of landowners to learn about land conservation options.
- A site walk with a landowner who protected their property through a conservation restriction.
- A talk with a local estate planning attorney and land trust about planning for the future of the land.
- Mailing informational materials to landowners

The Grant program is funded through the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation's *Working Forest Initiative*, and is administered in partnership with UMass Extension, Franklin Land Trust, North Quabbin Regional Landscape Partnership, and Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust.

To Apply:

- Grants will be awarded on a rolling basis. Maximum grant award is \$350.
- The deadline for submitting applications is December 30, 2014. Applicants are encouraged to apply early as funds are limited.
- Please fill out the application on the next page and return as soon as possible to Jay Rasku at [rasku@mountgrace.org](mailto:rasku@mountgrace.org) or 1461 Old Keene Road, Athol MA 01331, or call 978-248-2055 x 17 with questions.
- Grant funds must be spent and grant activities must be completed by May 30, 2015.
- This is a reimbursement grant. Reimbursements must be turned in no later than June 7, 2015. Reimbursements must include invoices and receipts.

## Open Space Committee Estate Planning Grant Application Form

Date:

Name of Applicant:

Name of Committee:

Mailing Address:

Phone:

Email:

Grant amount are you seeking (*maximum award is \$350.00*):

What do you hope to accomplish with the Grant? If you have an Open Space and Recreation Plan, please reference goals you hope to implement:

What specific activities would the grant award fund? What are the specific goals for those activities? (*e.g., specific activity could be a landowner workshop on conservation options, specific goal for that activity could be 40 landowners attending, 4 landowners subsequently meeting with a land trust, 4 landowners subsequently meeting with a forester, etc.*):

What specific expenses will the grant cover?

Please provide a basic budget below (estimates are OK):

*Please return to Jay Rasku at 1461 Old Keene Road, Athol MA 01331 or [rasku@mountgrace.org](mailto:rasku@mountgrace.org).*