



## BRIEF NOTES from

Meeting at University of Maine Orono to get to know one another and to discuss possible use of cultural easements or agreements

May 8, 2018

**Attendees:** Darren Ranco, Ramona Peters, Leslie Jonas, Martin Dana, Donald Soctomah, Chris Sockalexis, John Banks, Sharri Venno, Suzanne Greenlaw, Peter Forbes, Deirdre Whitehead, Ciona Ulbrich, Zak Klein, Hannah Quimby. Could not attend: James Francis.

**Presentation by Ramona Peters** talked about the Cultural Use Agreement (with input by Leslie)

The Native Land Trust chose the term carefully;

Compensation is important as a concept;

They have an exchange of telling their oral history for the public once a year for cultural use agreement;

Suspicion of tribes remains a real issue, so don't want a bad example out there of misuse of lands or an agreement;

Big question that comes up with harvesting rights granted to a tribe, is who has and does not have those rights. Could land trusts maybe offer a gatekeeper role to take the intertribal politics of harvesting rights off of the shoulders of the tribes?

Ramona's trust wrote a policy for the local newspapers on how and when to talk or not talk about burial grounds or sacred sites, to help them do the right thing.

### **Round Table Conversation:**

Maliseet: Lack of land trusts in WN County is an issue. They had hoped to work with a land trust on protection of river buffers and shoreline, but so far, the only land trust interested has been MFT, who are not interested in incorporating river buffer into their farm easements, even though very important. In this place, Maliseet have tried to work carefully, individually, with

landowners to get some protections or get access as needed. Zoning or impositions have not worked. But, river protection is vital and they are worried because of the many land transfers happening. They have also tried talking with Trust for Public Lands for help around the river but had no luck.

Have worked extensively with Acadia National Park on uses (ash stands in particular), and have a few agreements signed. Dave Goldstein at ANP is a contact for those agreements.

Penobscot: river access and protection, particularly access to the western side of the river, is vital.

One goal of Passamaquoddy is access points along the St. Croix and protections along it

Penobscot: Are already working with the Woods and Waters National Monument land and have one use agreement signed with them (US Dept of Interior) and are working on others.

Each tribe has its own attorney, so any template document the Learning Journey creates should then go to each tribal attorney for input and tailoring to that tribe's needs. Each such agreement will also be location and need specific.

They would be interested in seeing an agreement document. We might start by getting the Acadia and Woods and Waters ones that they have already worked on.

Interests of the tribes include: quarries for certain minerals or rock; fishing access; portages as well as certain plant harvesting and cultivation, or ceremonial uses.

Reconnection with place can reaffirm origins.

We were asked: What do the land trusts want? Why are you interested in stories and place names? A few of us answered: To strive to teach our children, to perhaps take (small) steps to change the tide in thinking and talking about settlement, and to do our part in being part of a change/beginning of change

Next steps maybe future Wabanaki Round Tables together with harvesters and fishermen as well. What about a round table such as this twice a year to continue conversations?

Questions of the Land Trusts: What do the land trusts want? Why is this beneficial to us? Where is it may be jointly beneficial to have access agreements?