

May 7, 2020

Letter of Commitment to First Light Conservation Community Delegation on Wabanaki Land Access and Land Issues

This letter documents the commitment of [the Southern Maine Conservation Collaborative (SMCC) to serving as a member of the Conservation Community Delegation on Wabanaki Land Access and Land Issues.

Wabanaki Leaders and Community Members engaged with the First Light Journey have requested that the conservation community form a similarly sized Delegation to work with the Wabanaki Task Force being formed. Attached is a working document outlining the initial set of goals of such a Delegation.

This Delegation is envisioned to meet mostly by phone but occasionally in person, approximately every 6 weeks or a total of about nine times a year, plus approximately 2 hours a week work time on products or other aspects. Understanding that, SMCC commits that a staff person, currently Jessica Burton, our Executive Director, will represent SMCC on this Delegation at least until June of 2021. As part of this role, Jessica will keep SMCC and it's member organizations apprised of this work and progress.

SMCC understands that this delegation will have a budget and cost needing funding. Currently, we all find ourselves in very uncertain times in terms of fundraising. Therefore, at this time, SMCC is unable to offer a financial commitment to the Delegation effort beyond the in-kind donation of Jessica Burton's time. However, this is something we may be willing to consider in the future. In addition, we may be able to write letters of support when appropriate to help fund the initiative.

The Southern Maine Conservation Collaborative is a network of land and water conservation organizations dedicated to accelerating conservation work in southern Maine by providing technical and administrative support and expanding meaningful partnerships. A central tenet of our work is grounded in equity and justice. As we state in our Statement of Equity, we are committed to building on our history of working in partnership with other organizations by embracing equity, inclusion, and diversity in all areas of our mission.

SMCC is honored to join the Delegation and initiate a discovery process with Wabanaki representatives to explore mutual goals, potential partnerships, and avenues for deeper engagement. SMCC appreciated the opportunity to participate in the First Light Learning Journey, and now commits and looks forward to continued participation in this important work.

Sincerely,



John Spencer
President of the Board