

2023 Ansel B. Chaplin Award for Excellence in Open Space Protection by The Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts

Ramona (*Nosapocket*) Peters is a Bear Clan member and respected elder of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe. She served for many years as the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer. In 2012 she founded the Native Land Conservancy, Inc. (NLC), the first land trust east of the Mississippi governed by Native Americans. In its first decade, NLC has protected 100+ acres in E. Massachusetts and acquired three cultural respect easements, enabling safe native access for cultural practices and ceremony on town and land trust properties. With Ramona continuing as president, NLC has matured into a strong organization with its first staff and office. Ramona is a quiet, thoughtful and determined leader, making sure all voices are heard on a matter. Her worldwide experience in working with and advising indigenous people is highly respected. Ramona says, "I think land has power to generate peace. No matter what state of mind you are in, if you find yourself out in the woods or near the water, peace will come to you relatively quickly."



Left to right: NLC Clerk Sharman Brown, NLC Director Marlene Lopez, NLC Admin. Asst. Jodi Keegan, Compact Exec. Dir. Mark Robinson, NLC President Ramona Peters, Majel Peters, NLC Director Miles Bernadette, NLC Director Gail Melix, NLC Exec. Dir. Diana Ruiz