

**CT Chapter, The American Chestnut Foundation**  
**Minutes of the Annual Meeting and Business Meeting**  
**Saturday, April 14, 2018**

**Present:** Phil Arnold, John Baker, David Bingham, Star Child, Jim Gage, Jane Harris, Bert Malkus, Jack Ostroff, Ginny Patsun, Karl Rider, Jack Swatt, Kendra Collins

**President Star Child** called the Annual Meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. **The minutes of the April 22, 2017** annual meeting were **approved** on a motion by David Bingham, seconded by Jack Swatt.

**Treasurer Jim Gage** provided his report, saying that the chapter is in a strong financial position with a balance of \$45,146.00, of which \$6,000 is reserved for future fencing. On a motion by Jane, seconded by David, the report was unanimously **accepted**.

**Orchard Reports:** The orchard at Great Woods is looking good; Star ran a tour there for Woods. Salem has recently been measured, and there are now 200 trees, with three lost over the past winter. Wigwam Brook will be inoculated this year. Richard Bailey reported blight at the Ellington Orchard, which arrived there naturally. Rock Cobble reports a 98% germination rate in one plot, but nothing germinated from the seeds received from Ellington. Ginny Patsun said that the Norcross planting had 90% success in the first season.

**By-Laws Change:** On a motion by David, seconded by Bert, the board voted unanimously to create a fifth officer of the board, that of President Emeritus. This will affect wording in Article 6, Sections 1 and 2.

**Nominating Committee Report:** Nominees to serve another term on the Board are Jim Gage, Phil Arnold, David Bingham, Garrett Smith, Bill Adamsen, John Baker, and Ginny Patsun. Phil Arnold also nominated Mark Vollaro of Shelton, seconded by Bert. The vote for the slate, plus Mark was unanimous.

**The slate of officers** was read by John: President Emeritus, Star Child; President, Jack Swatt; Vice President, Jack Ostroff; Treasurer, Jim Gage; Recording Secretary, Jane Harris. The slate was moved by Phil Arnold and seconded by David; the approving vote was unanimous. John said that Woods is stepping down from the Nominating Committee, and that Jane Harris can serve in his place. The vote to approve that change was unanimous.

**Other Business:** Jack Swatt managed a booth at the CT Flower Show in Hartford in February; he said the public interest was considerable. He is planning an outreach event with David for the Salem Orchard on June 9<sup>th</sup>, which can be done in conjunction with the planned inoculation. Kendra is trialing an app called TreeSnap, which allows for reporting of wild chestnut trees. David suggested this might be demoed at the Council of Land Trusts, in hopes that Land Trust members could more easily report wild trees.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m. on a motion by Jack Ostroff, seconded by Jack Swatt.

**BUSINESS MEETING:**

Following a presentation by Andy Newhouse of SUNY-ESF, new President Jack Swatt called the business meeting to order at 3:55 p.m.

On a motion by John Baker seconded by Star Child, the minutes of January 5, 2018 were **unanimously approved**. **The minutes were submitted for posting on the CTACF website.**

On a motion by John Baker, seconded by Star, the Treasurer's proposed budget was unanimously accepted.

**New Seed Orchards:** Kendra provided an update on the new seed orchards. Two have been planted: Rock Cobble and Norcross. She will assist with Norcross so she can familiarize herself with the site.

Jack Ostroff will contact the folks at the Denison Homestead to see how they are progressing. Kendra will assist if they are ready to plant. She suggested strip tilling, as the trees will be planted close to one another. It would be desirable to have the fence installed, but tree shelters will be of some help for deer and other grazers. Karl said he has a large walk-in cooler, and can keep see viable until they are ready to plant.

**Inoculations:** Wigwam Brook probably should wait one more year till the two smaller lines are closer to being ready. The trees must be leafed out in June for inoculation. They should be measured in June of 2019. Salem's measurements didn't arrive with David's report, so he will re-send. He hopes to inoculate in June of 2018.

**Potential Orchards:** Wilton – Bill Adamsen is planning to speak with the owners. Kendra has spoken to Mike, the owner, but nothing has been firmed up yet. Cheshire Land Trust – Jack Swatt will be in touch with Kendra about this possible site.

Kendra also said she has spoken with Marilu Sinclair, who has hopes of finding someone to step up take on management in Woods's place. Star offered his help.

**Miscellaneous Items:** Kendra reported that Jared Westbrook is looking for diversity of genetic material. He hopes to receive both nuts and wild seedlings from native-grown trees in all areas served by TACF. Star suggested that we start recruiting volunteers to locate wild chestnut trees.

John Baker and Jack Swatt moved to adjourn the business meeting at 4:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jane Harris  
Recording Secretary