

**CT Chapter, The American Chestnut Foundation**  
**Minutes of the Board Meeting of Friday, January 5, 2018**

**Present by Teleconference:** Bill Adamsen, Phil Arnold, John Baker, David Bingham, Jim Gage, Jane Harris, Bert Malkus, Jack Ostroff, Karl Rider, Garrett Smith, Jack Swatt, Kendra Collins.

Acting for President Starling Childs, Kendra Collins **called the annual meeting to order** at 10:05 a.m.

corrections by Jim Gage, and on a motion by John Baker seconded by Jack Swatt, the minutes were **unanimously approved. The corrected minutes were submitted for posting on the CTACF website.**

Jim Gage said he was working on the budget, which will be subject to forthcoming seed orchard plans. Kendra said that the Manton Grant will not be received by the Chapter until 2019, as the Foundation is using a two-year grant cycle for the most recent grant request. The Chapter has used up all of the 2017-2018 Manton Grant funds. The amount the CT Chapter receives in the next round will be dependent on the needs of the entire TACF Region; the funds can only be used for planting.

**New Seed Orchards:** Kendra provided an update on the new seed orchards. Three plots at the Norcross orchard have been planted, and some re-seeding may be needed. They will wait until more seeds become available from the Swann Farm. There are about 450 trees in the three plots, all of which came from the Woodbridge orchard. At most, there will be two additional plots from Swann Farm planted there.

Karl Rider then reported on Rock Cobble Farm, which had a 90% success rate in its initial three plots. Some of the seed they received from Swann Farm was rotten. They have five more plots ready. The plots are planted with low-mow fescues: Creeping red and sheep fescues, which will greatly reduce the amount of mowing and weed-pulling. Kendra said she would keep Karl updated on seed as it becomes available. Karl has plenty of cold storage available if needed to preserve seed until planting. He also said he would send Kendra a list of in-kind donations so that a charitable donation acknowledgement can be sent to Rock Cobble Farm from TACF.

**Future Seed Orchard Sites:** Kendra then asked for an update on prospective seed orchard sites that had been mentioned at the last meeting. David, Jack O. and Jane provided an update on their visit to the Denison Homestead in Stonington, where they looked at two sites and obtained soil samples. Of the two fields, one had better characteristics and aspect, as well as good road access and proximity to the Denison-Pequotsepos Nature Center.

Jack said that Jess Brown, the principal contact at the site, is looking into fund-raising through social media (Kickstarter?) to provide for fencing. David suggested that the Chapter should offer half of the cost of the fencing to Denison, which they will need to match, dollar-for-dollar. The members present agreed that, with the heavy deer pressure in the area, a higher-quality fence would be necessary, and that a total of \$12,000 will be needed to enclose approximately two acres. **David moved to budget \$6,000 toward the fencing, and Jim Gage seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.** Kendra asked David and Jack to relate this news to the Denison contact.

No other sites have been identified to the point of needing funding as yet.

**Seed Orchard Guidelines:** Kendra reported that the new guidelines for seed orchards from headquarters are for a minimum of three blocks of 3,000 trees each, with a maximum of nine blocks (which was the

original plan). With 2 established, and a 3<sup>rd</sup> looking promising for this spring, aiming for 4 or 5 blocks might be a fine goal. The consensus was to let the available sites dictate the number established.

**Miscellaneous Items:** Phil said that there are about 15 selected trees at Woodbridge that are producing seeds; Jim said that Swann Farm has only 5 or 6 trees producing. David asked if the Chapter could contact someone at CAES about obtaining some of the hypovirulent blight fungus that Dr. Sandy had been working on. It requires each stem of a tree to be treated. Bill offered to check with Jeff Ward to find out how it might be obtained. Kendra has a connection at the University of Maryland who has another type of hypovirus, which has been genetically modified and has greater universality than Dr. Sandy's. David mentioned that the mother tree near his orchard was treated with Dr. Sandy's product five years ago, and is now 70 or 80 feet tall and healthy.

**Bill said he would follow up** on two potential seed orchard sites in Wilton: one owned by the Wilton Land Trust and another owned by the Cabot family of Boston.

Bill has recently worked with Jules Smith at TACF headquarters to move the CTACF.org site onto the TACF.org site. The move has been transparent, and with minimal change in function. Jim asked whether he can remove the cost of web hosting from the budget; Bill said that he could do so. Our document archive was moved with the site. Jack Swatt offered to help with web editing.

**Outreach:** Jack Swatt has been working on updating the Chapter mailing list, and has hosted two events to try to reach out to the membership. He hopes to do another event, possibly involving one or more hikes to visit wild trees. David's Salem farm and Great Mountain were sites that were discussed. Mid- to late June will likely be the date, since it will be more interesting to see the trees in bloom. He also **is looking for volunteers to work at the CTACF booth at the CT Flower Show in Hartford on February 22, 23, 24 and 25. Volunteers will receive free passes to the show for the day they are working. Please contact Jack with your interest in helping: [jswatt@snet.net](mailto:jswatt@snet.net) or (203) 592-4686**

**Breeding Orchard Inventories:**

David will do his orchard in the spring; Jane and Jack Swatt will do Middletown as soon as the road is passable in the spring. Wigwam Brook is done. David thinks that Salem is probably ready for inoculation.

**Germplasm Conservation Orchards:** Kendra reported on the next type of orchard which will be needed, which require ten plots of seed from ten wild, native trees. It is a low-key project, and might be appropriate for smaller land parcels or those which may have a shorter land-use period. Would require volunteers to locate wild trees and harvest seed in the fall.

**Nominating Committee:** John asked for a list of current board members and their term completion dates. Jane agreed to search through the past minutes to verify that information. John asked for **all current board members to notify him or Bill as to their intent re continuing on the board.** Woods Sinclair is in a rehab facility, and asked to step down; **John asked for suggested replacements for him.**

**Annual Meeting:** The members present agreed to hold the Annual Meeting at CFPA on Saturday, April 14 (or April 7<sup>th</sup> if the 14<sup>th</sup> is not available.) Jane agreed to reserve the large meeting room and to request either of two SUNY-ESF researchers (Bill Powell and Andy Newhouse) as keynote speaker.

Kendra declared the meeting adjourned at 11:55 am.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jane Harris  
Recording Secretary

**Commented [WU1]:** Did he ask to step down from the board completely, or just the nominating committee?