

CT Chapter, The American Chestnut Foundation Minutes of the Meeting of Saturday, December 17, 2016

Present at the meeting which was conducted by conference call: Star Childs, Jim Gage, Woods Sinclair, Jack Ostroff, John Baker, David Bingham, Garrett Smith, Jane Harris, and Kendra Collins.

President Childs **called the meeting** to order at 10:05 am. David and Garrett moved and seconded to **approve the minutes**. The approval vote was unanimous.

Treasurer Gage has sent out interim financial reports and said that finances are in good shape. All but \$200 to \$300 of the Manton Grant has been spent. There is a bill expected for fencing the Stafford Orchard. Kendra is looking for requests for the 2017 Manton Grant money; Jim will provide to Kendra. Jim and Woods will report at the Annual Meeting on any other financial requests. Woods and Jim **moved and seconded to accept the provisional budget**, with final numbers to be received in April, 2017. The motion passed unanimously.

Orchard Reports:

Jim said that the **Norcross** property has installed a fist-class deer fence at a cost of \$11,600. Half of this sum has been provided by the Norcross Foundation. The seed orchard is ready to plant in the spring. Guilford's fence has not been replaced: discussion ensued as to whether there are enough trees remaining to warrant deer protection. Jack will check.

Rock Cobble – Kendra has been working with Karl; the land is cleared and this installation is self-funded. Star said he felt confident the work was being done properly.

New Business: Jim asked whether a Memorandum of Understanding had been prepared for the **Norcross** orchard. Kendra said a germ plasm agreement was needed, and Jim agreed to look into whether that was done. The agreement for a seed orchard needs to be for 30 to 40 years. Further discussion suggested that Dan Donahue and Star could draft an MOU for Norcross.

Kendra further reported that Norcross will need a leader to get the planting done; she will have the planting diagrams done by February. Each plot will contain 150 of a particular line; seeds are to be planted in the usual mixture of peat, vermiculite and perlite. Sara Fitzsimmons will be available to answer questions while Kendra is on maternity leave.

Jim said that Ginny Patsun is the new manager for **Stafford Springs**; he was unsure whether he or Dan Donahue would be the board contact for Norcross. Karl Rider will be the orchard manager for Rock Cobble and Star will be the board contact.

Kendra reported that Phil, Bert and Mark Vallero harvested nuts from the **Woodbridge** orchard this year. **Swann Farm** had a low yield, but possibly enough to plant one plot.

Richard Bailey harvested 600 nuts at one site and 450 at another at Swann Farm. Woodbridge did not get inoculated this year but nuts can still be harvested in 2017.

Jim asked about **Mystic** and Jack thought a test planting might be done this spring. The site consists of about 200 acres, so some expertise is needed to locate a suitable site. David volunteered to help locate one or more sites.

John Baker and Bill Adamsen may have a site in Torrington on private land; Kendra was not sure if this will go forward. Woods will look into it.

Kendra further reported that headquarters may be rethinking seed orchards as a result of questions about viability of B3F3 nuts. The number of sites may be less than previously expected: a minimum of three, but the maximum number is still to be determined.

Annual Meeting Planning: Kendra suggested Sara F. or Jared Westbrook as a speaker. She said some chapters are looking into transgenic plantings. The meeting is scheduled for Saturday, April 22; Kendra will still be out on leave. Jane offered to firm up the CFPA site again, and to confirm a speaker.

Louisville: Star reported he attended the national meeting in Louisville; the next meeting will be in Portland, Maine October 6-7. There is also a Chapter Science meeting in February in Pittsburgh.

New Business: There is an article about the chapter in the Edible Nutmeg magazine and a link to same is available on the CTACF.org website.

The CT Land Conservation Council's annual symposium will be held at Wesleyan on March 18. Bill A. may be attending.

Star **adjourned the meeting** at 11:25 a.m.