

CT Chapter, The American Chestnut Foundation

Minutes of the Board Meeting of Saturday, March 31, 2019

Members Present: Star Childs, Jim Gage, Jane Harris, Florian Carle, Jack Swatt, Jack Ostroff, Philip Arnold, Bert Malkus, Mark Vollaro, John Baker, Bill Adamsen, David Bingham

President Jack Swatt **called the meeting to order** at 1:20 pm

On a motion by Star Childs, seconded by Phil Arnold, the minutes of the November 16, 2018 Board Meeting **were unanimously approved.**

On a motion by Phil Arnold, seconded by Mark Vollaro, the **Budget** presented by Treasurer Jim Gage **was approved.**

Orchard management: Update by Kendra Collins

Potential to inoculate two orchards in June 2019: Salem and Litchfield
Minimum stem size is 1.5-inch diameter at 3 feet above grade.

Guilford is also being considered, but need to check the lines planted there and check versus Jared's presentation (genetics analysis) to see if it's worth the work. There are approximately 20 trees remaining there.

Issues with potential orchard at Denison Homestead in Mystic CT (fences, slow process) but we should consider this orchard for long term work.

Breeding plans to be continued if they make sense based on the TACF new findings.

CT Chapter approved the use of Transgenic materials in the last meeting. We will wait for regulatory approval, but land owners might be interested in growing transgenic trees, and you can start talking to them to test the water, but it's premature to start the work.

Pre-screening of the saplings:

Jack Swatt and Florian Carle will meet with Joseph Orefice, Director of Forest & Agricultural Operations of Yale Forestry on April 17. Yale Forestry might be a valuable resource, and Kendra will be able to give them something to do, slightly updated to match the latest findings.

Germ conservation orchards can be fenced with individual tree cages, electric fencing with a solar collector, or complete fence of the parcel. We can apply for a grant if funding is needed.

Kendra to send the database of all the CT trees to Jack Swatt. Members can go check the trees and update the database (take precaution if trees are on private land).

By harvest time, the selection process will be known for Woodbridge and other orchards.

Outreach and Education

Good relation with Canaan school which has a tree program (Contact: Mark Burdick), and with the Yale School of Forestry (Contact: Joseph Orefice). We should partner with them to develop programming to educate youth already interested in trees and chestnuts.

Partnership with the Connecticut Land Conservation Council is possible;
New Haven Land Trust has done several tree ID programs, we should consider partnering with them for a chestnut ID walk.

Jack Swatt wants to increase visibility on social media to educate the public about our work. For example, MA has a good Facebook page (Contact Ms. Dejardin); Florian will help with social media.

It can be valuable to create a CT Chapter subgroup of the headquarters page on Facebook to avoid multiple and confusing accounts. Florian will talk to Jules Smith about the best way to process about subgroups/sharing accounts/occasional takeovers for CT chapter events.

Florian to update the website with the minutes from 2015, the bylaws, fix the broken links (ask Jules Smith for a password and login)

CT chapter will buy 30 volunteers' sew-on patches (\$1.50 each) and give to volunteers - Motion to buy the patches, seconded, and approved.

We encourage you to use the TreeSnap app and to send the leaves and nuts in for tracking if you find new trees in the wild.

No new or old business.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 2pm