

MA/RI-TACF Autumn Quarterly Meeting Minutes

October 21, 2017

**URI East Farm Building 75 South Kingstown, RI
Morning Orchard Meeting**

10:30am

Present: Gray Curtis, Josh Soojian, Doug Rademacher, John Meiklejohn, Rufin Van Bossoyt, Brian Clark, Kathy Desjardin, Karen Jones, Mike Grames, Dave Lent, Gary Jacob, Lois Melican, Denis Melica, Yvonne Federowicz

2017 Harvest Summary and 2018 Planting Outlook -- Brian Clark

John Emery lost a lot of seeds to chipmunks. They were sneaking in around the rock on top of his aluminum tubes;

Misc. Orchard Issues

SKLT will have inventory done next Saturday.

Possibly 3 more Graves for next fall if selections complete

Bristol Aggie has a lot of Graves

Jim Garland has 4 very nice trees. What are they? Yvonne needs to go out and check. Maybe with Doug?

Seed orchard inoculation?

80% need to be above 1 inch dbh at 18 inches

Get Kendra the full inventory

John worried that tiny trees would skew the result of 80% above 1 inch

Yvonne asked whether removing tubes good.

Remove cloth and tubes from trees at our height or taller. Definitely for inoculation.

We should have work parties to remove the tubes. We should ask the people who have asked to volunteer.

Turkeys can get their necks down white tubes

Graves seed orchard blocks: we need more! Some Graves B3 selections have died too.

Lois asked if we need more Graves breeding orchards; Brian says we need to get existing selections to resprout, not plant one. Pruning seems to weaken? Don't reduce number of stems.

VT, NH and ME have Graves

Mike Grames -- knows a person who might be able to do a seed orchard

Doug Rademacher suggested contacting RIFCO

Yvonne (and Doug?) contact Jim Garland

Jamie: each seed orchard needs at least one seed orchard manager/group

Gary: we used to reach out to MACC. We could have a booth there; we used to.

Josh is going to ask Brian Roth whether the type of forestry credit can be done for his Urban Forester group

MACC Conference in Sturbridge next Saturday

Gardner MA contact

National partnerships: Army Corps of Engineers? Yvonne can contact

Conservation Commissions:

UMass Agricultural Learning Center -- hard to get meshing with seed orchard needs

Jamie: getting Graves seed from other Chapters? We'd need Graves lines that don't overlap our ones

MA/RI Graves Lines

We need to figure out what we have that eventually we will get Graves lines from.

Kendra will ask Jared et al. whether this is a good strategy (getting Graves lines from other chapters)

Burn permit -- doing at Littleton?

Work parties: removing fabric and protectors:

Scissors good.

Various locations

West Boylston -- everything going well

Mass Wildlife, Pittsfield, SKLT, Granville,

Westboro new section coming along well.

Outreach:

National doesn't have great volunteer org ability (that we can utilize?)

Portal that national would operate?

Email list? We still need

Annual Meeting; 1 week before Jamie's burn party. Introducing people to work we do is good.

Karen got 30 people to volunteer and sign up, from different parts of the state.

Mike Grames: email list -- way to contact people.

FB?

Maine has a **Mailchimp** account. One can set up that type of email blast through Mailchimp. Kendra suggested we set up Mailchimp. Website thru national.

Karen can work with her list of people w/Mailchimp?

John Meiklejohn -- would like to have local seed orchard work group.

John Meiklejohn will work with Karen. Karen suggested working with our National list.

Lois and Kathy have list of membership

Mailchimp/Volunteer Committee: Karen, Mike Grames, John Meiklejohn, Yvonne

Rufin doing work on soil

Kathy has a new Board List

Purchases, planting supplies? Fabric, staples, bamboo: Manton Grant?

Manton is spanning two years; budget, has two years.

MA/RI-TACF Board Meeting

1:07pm

Present: morning plus Brad Smith, Rich Hoffman, minus Doug

Motion to accept minutes from Summer meeting passed unanimously

Treasurer's Report: Michael not present

Financial sheet.

Manton expenses listed. Need receipts.

Almost all in for 2017.

Motion to accept Treasurer's Report passed unanimously.

Secretary's Report

Membership 307

National's "Annual Report" document was passed around; we need to document our outreach activities, planting info etc. It also has a section for "Best Practices". Lois will send everyone a copy.

Manual of Best Practices.

National Chapter's Insurance: have a waiver for people to sign.

Can people be in our Chapter from outside our states?

Signup form on National's website is hard to use

Weevils and chiggers!

Motion to Accept Secretary's Report unanimously

Jamie to reach out to agency and send them the recommendations from the national Chapters Meeting recommendations

TACF Annual Meeting discussion

Education Committee -- many changes

Transitions

Learning Box group resigned; we value it highly

We need to communicate that we use this a lot

Poster sessions had great info for us. Talks also.

Climate change scenarios -- chestnut range

Small stem assay -- Mike Grames discussed Jared's work; Brian tried this too. 650 seedlings from stacked resistance -- inoculation of stems; no "takes" from inoculation... Many possibilities.

Tool problem? Nitpicker wound is very smooth, might close up too fast.

Jared found that most ME, MA, GA where it took, Sg vs Ep: Ep showed much stronger differentiation in canker size. Jared suggested Ep for SSA, or "Weekly". Can also follow the stems for longer. SSA still being worked out.

May use SSA for initial screening.

Progeny testing

Provenance tests

Forest planting methods -- research

Phytophthora (PT)

Jared is now leading the PT work

President's Report: Lois

Thanks to everyone for all the work they are doing

New member from Belchertown would like a presentation from his town

Outreach: we need to tweak the presentation to ask for help and members

Scraggy Neck: Gray planted numerous trees. Excellent deer protection.

Got replacements for losses. Planted 16 chestnuts in $\frac{1}{3}$ acre. Rocks removed.

Sandy loam soil. Deer cages. 4' hardware cloth, 5' diameter.

National Annual Meeting: outreach and partnerships.

Lois did presentation. Electronic proceedings likely will go on website.

Scouts in our area a possibility; Lois and Denis going to become Boy Scouts. Good collaboration.

Orchard Management: Quabbin, Dartmouth. Bruce Spencer back in touch, went to the Annual Meeting.

Kendra will go down and visit, Bruce likely will revive orchard if she does. Jamie knows a good route.

Quabbin is a Graves orchard with lines not represented elsewhere so we should pursue it.

Dartmouth -- Jamie needs to go down and look; cannot get in touch with Russ Hensel.

Communications Report: Yvonne

Framingham State tree request via Brian Bastarache Bristol Aggie; B3F2 or B3F3.

We need a GPA from them. Also membership for them. Charlotte is on her way as we speak... she's visiting Rufin.

YF will CC Charlotte and Brian et al. from Framingham

BA can have B3F2s w/GPA. In honor If

What would they like? Ask them. 5 trees? Research goals? Put them in touch with Kendra too.

They need to understand that the trees are still in development.

Gray: the GPA is good to help people consider the trees as a commitment.

FB page -- needs a moderator?

Current FB issue:

MA/RI GCOs need to be coordinated through National in the database, not randomly done.

Mark is working on a GCO. We want a variety of MA/RI trees in them.

¼ to ½ mile from other stuff

Brad and Yvonne will change the FB permissions.

MA/RI-TACF Elections, Officers, and Board Composition

Slate of nominees 2017: Jamie

Getting new trainees for Secretary and Treasurer positions!

Treasurer: not incredibly difficult but critical to do well; tax filing etc.

Nonprofit accountant companies who could help us -- Gary knows NJ.

Jamie: Treasurer is different from Bookkeeper -- Michael knows the large picture. We need Michael to get someone up to speed.

Looking for a member who would be willing to volunteer as Treasurer.

Kendra has ME chapter info on asking people to volunteer as these positions.

Ask people if they might be interested in being on Board.

John M. -- suggests people ask if they want to be on Board.

Will work with Jamie and Karen. We need a skillset -- possibly more than one skillset

Board Recruitment Committee: John, Kathy, Jamie, Karen (treasurer skills, attorney)

Purchases -- for spring not too bad but will do as comes up.

Two popup canopy tents for outreach/work parties -- with sidewalls.

Motion -- purchase canopy tents -- approved unanimously

Motion to purchase Laminator: 11x17 approved unanimously

Guido's Market -- window display -- have pamphlets? Will they have chestnuts?

March 15-April 14 is time range. Craig will be nearby.

Motion -- unanimously approved \$250 for display at Guido's

Tune-up and storage for lawn tractor and hoop house. They pick up the tractor.

Annual Meeting Planning:

Brian Roth can stay with Brian Clark

Food buffet!!!

Honorarium for speaker

Josh has created a list of people who might be able to weed, do other tasks

As needed --

Kendra: Brian Roth has done things that get credits for Continuing Ed

That might help bring in more attendees

MA/RI-TACF orchard backup labor possibilities

We have used Interns in the past

Independent contractor: if have power tools, must have insurance.

Legalities -- we need details

Do the people want to volunteer? No chainsaws without insurance!!!

Can TACF do a contractor hiring for us? Kendra will ask Heather.

A weeder? Someone in Fall River.

Partnerships:

NEFF -- going well

Town of Monson, MA (Mt. Ella, Flynt Park)

Guido's Market -- see above

Donker Farm, Greater Worcester Land Trust

Western MA Boy Scout Council, Moses Reservation, Russell MA

Rufin's picture is in the latest Chestnut Journal, next to an enormous American chestnut in Belgium. He brought chestnut wood from a large chestnut that had to be cut down.

Dr. Brian Roth's MA/RI-TACF Annual Meeting talk as Forester Continuing Education: can count for certain forestry professional types -- we can see what we can apply for. Josh and Brian Roth are in touch.

Lois:

Peter Burley: was director of Audubon in NY; was instrumental in Stockbridge orchard setup, along with Marshall Chase (TACF past president).

There are numerous volunteers out there; the Guido's Market effort would be good to support them too.

Mention to Lisa to visit Leila of Stockbridge orchard -- Rufin, Lois.

Denis also visited Gould Meadow near Tanglewood

Mass Forest Alliance -- theme of partnerships. Nice letter re. Lois' talk there.

4:04 adjourned