

7/15/17 MA/RI-TACF Summer Quarterly Meeting Minutes

Hebard Arboretum, Springside Park, Pittsfield, MA

Lois Breault-Melican, Denis Melican, Gray Curtis, Mark Meehl, Dave Lent, Brian Clark, Yvonne Federowicz, Paul Wetzel, Josh Soojian, Karen Jones, Jamie Donalds, Rich Horvath

10:30am Orchard Meeting

Seed Orchard Updates

(needs details from Denis? as YF arrived late)

Eagle Scout – needs to get assistance of other people for his project

Breeding Orchard Updates

Yvonne discussed the chlorosis on Nankings at SKLT; added more Hollytone this month after seeing chlorosis appear again

Orchard volunteers

Tina Umass Medical – Worcester

Lois and Yvonne will work on the BCC announcement of volunteer days

Website:

Info on each orchard; what work parties when

Calendar? One contact person, general town location but not exact address until volunteers contacts person

Maine Chapter uses MailChimp – provide a contact person with notice of the workday

Yvonne will send Ruth comments – what is not working

Our location/Google Map entry that Lois and Yvonne made is not working now?

T-shirts Lois has: remember to notify Michael of inventory

Yvonne would like some for a work party at SKLT this autumn

Shucking party this autumn? We can boil some and give out for eating.

MacLeish in the Lab – Paul offered

ACTION ITEM: New canopy needed – Lois can price one and contact ExCom

Norcross Grant: Brian purchased the materials

Westboro was done. Additional materials were bought that could help expand Pittsfield

ACTION ITEM: Norcross needs photos of Westboro's fence expansion – Lois will send to Samantha

Jamie was not able to rogue Littleton in time to use the seeds this year
There were good selections though

Person would like to buy a good mower (call Jamie about)
John Emery could use a nice walk-behind; have a large rear wheel
Wayland vs Lincoln – one in each?

Auger – would be good; Brian's auger broke this spring, lost weeks of work
Hiring someone for numerous hours? Vs. Intern

ACTION ITEM: Communication re. equipment would have helped – Yvonne plans to work on

Fundraising dinner possibility

Mt. Greylock – food is wonderful, they have a chef
April?

Spring overview:

Tantasqua Orchard Dedication – 600 kids went
The junior high has trees; the nearby high school now also wants trees!
Bristol Aggie could connect with the Tantasqua people and/or Paul at Smith

Break for Lunch

Afternoon Board Meeting 1pm

Lois Breault-Melican, Denis Melican, Gray Curtis, Mark Meehl, Dave Lent, Brian Clark, Yvonne Federowicz, Paul Wetzel, Josh Soojian, Karen Jones, Jamie Donalds, Rich Horvath, Brad Smith

Guests: Bob Presutti

Minutes of Spring meeting

Motion to accept, passed unanimously

Treasurer Report Michael Novack

Donation from Safari Int'l. was very welcome.
\$2k left in mower fund
Manton funds from this year: still plenty

We are ahead for the year so far, compared with last year

Motion to accept Treasurer's Report passed unanimously

No Secretary Report -- Kathy unable to attend

Connections:

- Mass F&W has a new commissioner. Article mentioned chestnut.
- Bill Davis joined TACF; will be retiring soon.
- Otter River connection! Leominster Sportsman's Club
- NEFF: Jamie is going to give them lots of nuts this autumn

Communications Report Yvonne

Web committee: Kathy, Yvonne, Mike Grames, Lois, Brad

Getting an intern or new person involved to help keep our social media etc. up to date

Brad volunteered to coordinate our social media

Ruth can add people for training

ACTION ITEM: Brad, Kathy, Yvonne, Mike G., Lois – meeting to work on WP

Ruth! Brad Smith, a board member of MA/RI, should be added as a WordPress editor for our chapter. Thanks!!!

The Trees DB eventually should be able to output a map

ACTION ITEM: Josh will look into forestry people who can assist (paid work as needed, irregular)

Getting a list of foresters and assistants who can come out at need and help us

President's Report Lois

Events:

TACF Annual Meeting: 1st weekend in October: 4-8

People are encouraged to come!

Lois will do presentation on partnerships

Combining with Maine Chapter

Lobster Bake Friday night

Columbus Day is Monday the 9th, the National Mtg is that weekend.

Conflicts with Ashfield Fall Festival so we need to make arrangements.

Garlic & Arts Sept. 23-24– Lois needs help with

Boy Scout Eagle Project discussed in morning -- needs coordination

National: Boy Scout Jamboree – you have to be a scout to volunteer?

Seed orchard & Boy Scouts? Location is near John Meiklejohn, who is interested

Tantasqua School chestnut ceremony went very well. Culinary Arts person there also interested now.

Partnership with Greenfield, MA forester – put in chestnuts in forest area
New Bedford Water District: Gray's forester, Phil Benjamin
Interested in a seed orchard! Is close to Gray

Orchard VP Report: Brian Clark

Seed Orchard Development still needed.

7 blocks Clapper; 1 Graves. We need more Graves blocks.

SSA technique – we have to prove via testing the same set of trees. – Brian
Brian Roth in Maine and Brian Clark doing. They are doing a paired field planting.
Pairing trials? Good to have several plots where we can do standard plus SSA
paired/comparing

Jamie: can we do SSA testing on already selected trees to try to correlate?

A recently inoculated orchard

SSA test ongoing in Asheville; other chapters are doing that too, seed orchard plots

Inventory of SKLT trees – first year's plots

Compare SSA results? Is a URI student maybe available to help with SSA work?

Boy Scouts in Russell MA – seed orchard?

Clapper: 20 plots at Smith

SKLT: 20 plots (need filling in)

Pittsfield 19 but we are expanding in a different area since part died

Westboro 14 in 1st; 12 in 2nd

Weston ? Possibly similar to

Breeding Orchards:

Lunenburg Clappers

Stacked resistance testing updates:

Controlled pollinations done by John Emery last year – 5 crosses Graves/Clapper

3 sets of open pollinations pure Graves pure Clapper and Chinese controls

Good site. 3 ft by 8 ft. all from selected B3F1s.

Wider spacing may be more valid; 2 ft if possible in future

Keeping environment as comparable as possible

SSA issues: minimum size 3 mm but the weather kept our backcrosses too small. The
Backcrosses were too small.

Larger pots might help? Waiting a bit might help

Materials needed: Westboro irrigation for new part
Jamie may need to order more

Demo plantings:

we discussed the list; we only have 24 survivors this spring so we will ask Kendra for additional
this autumn.

(YF to paste in portion of list)

Scraggy Neck

Voles in area. Need good protection.

MOU got passed.

Tantasqua – We would like to invite again to Annual Meeting

Annual Meeting Planning:

Lumber: Rufin has a lot of chestnut wood –

we should use it as a fundraising item (Rufin)

Our Board can purchase some of this; interest was expressed

Ebay is another possibility

In Pittsburgh, Karen met Gary Carver who inspects chestnut wood

Brad will inspect the wood and contact Rufin

Nomination Committee:

Rufin would like to resign from Board

Jamie will put slate together

Bill Davis

Jim Garland is retiring in a couple years and would like to be more involved; we plan to ask him

Chapter Annual Meeting Date: November 18th

Saturday – Weekend before Thanksgiving

ACTION ITEMS: Annual Meeting Coordination

Lois to set up location

Harvard Forest?

Westboro Sr. Center

Fish & Wildlife – no cooking

Brad: speaker setup

David Foster – ecologist

Brian Roth – SSA

Dov Sax? – Brown/YF
SUNY people

Autumn Quarterly Meeting

ACTION ITEM: RI/ Yvonne to ask?

Meeting Adjourned approx. 4pm

New England Regional Meeting in NH Sept. 16th (added after meeting by YF)