

The 2002 Annual Meeting of The American Chestnut Foundation - Massachusetts Chapter - was held at Tower Hill Botanic Garden in Boylston on November 17, 2002.

The business meeting was called to order at 10:04 a.m. by President Susan Cormier. Board members in attendance for the Board meeting were Susan Cormier, John Emery, Rich Hoffman, Frank Howard, Gary Jacob, Mike Meixsell, Anne Myers, Guy Shepard, Brad Smith, Rufin Van Bossuyt and Charlotte Zampini.

Susan Cormier welcomed attendees, reviewed Chapter accomplishments and introduced special guests - National Director Marshal Case, keynote speaker Dr. Fred Paillet, Dr. Sandra Anagnostakis and others.

The reading of the minutes of the previous meeting was dispensed due to the absence of Sandy Gessford.

Due to the absence of Sandy Gessford, the report from membership was postponed until the January quarterly meeting.

Treasurer Anne Myers presented the preliminary budget for 2003 and the quarterly financial report.

Mike Meixsell, Nominating Committee Chairman, announced that the Nominating Committee Chairman for 2003 will be Gerry Cormier. The election process this year will differ from last year as it has become clear that the By-laws do not provide for absentee ballots or proxy voting.

Mike Meixsell conducted the election of Board members and the election of officers. A call for nominations from the floor was made. None were submitted. Therefore, the candidates were those shown on the ballot. Each member of the Board of Directors received a 3-page ballot. The 3-page ballot handout is in the files of the minutes and is hereby included in these minutes of the Annual Meeting and election by reference. The first page of each ballot was marked and deposited in the ballot box. The members of the Board of Directors were asked to keep pages 2 and 3 containing the recommendations for Charter and By-law amendments which Mike Meixsell proposed at the prior quarterly meeting in October. These pages augment the notice on the altered election procedures which Mike e-mailed the week preceding the annual election. President Susan Cormier is appointing a committee to review the Charter and By-laws and bring recommendations to the Board of Directors.

The votes were tallied by Mike Meixsell and Gerry Cormier.

Dr. Charlotte Zampini presented the biocontrol program report.

President Susan Cormier announced that all candidates had been duly elected.

Results of the Board and officer elections were announced.

The following Board members were elected unanimously:

Sandy Gessford, Richard Hoffman, Gary Jacob, Mike Meixsell,
Anne Myers, Guy Shepard, Brad Smith and Dave Ugucioni

The following officers were elected unanimously:

Susan Cormier, President
Frank Howard, Vice President
Sandy Gessford, Secretary/Clerk
Anne Myers, Treasurer

The new terms of office begin on January 1, 2003. The newly elected Directors will be installed at the quarterly meeting in January 2003.

The Board meeting was adjourned at 11:27 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandy Gessford, Secretary

Note: Following the business meeting, the following subject was discussed:
Rufin Van Bussuyt has been contacted by Leo Levi asking for 12 American chestnut seedlings to sell at one stop at a garden tour to be held in Newton in June. The money would go to buy horticultural books for the library. No money would go to TACF-MA. TACF literature would also be available at the same site. Anne Myers spoke in opposition to this saying that we would not be able to control what information was given to the purchasers (e.g. blight susceptibility culture). In addition she said that we would derive no benefit from the sale. Rufin pointed out that we would benefit from people picking up our literature. Susan suggested that the promotion might be to our benefit if we had a representative at the sale and suggested that Rufin and Frank look into this proposal further and report back to the Board.