

TACF MA/RI ANNUAL MEETING

November 18, 2012

Westborough Senior Center

Westborough, MA

Yvonne Federowicz, President

Lois Breault-Melican, Vice President

Kathy Desjardins, Secretary

Mike Novak, Treasurer

Roy Najecki

Brian Clark

Rich Hoffman

Elizabeth Hammond

Guy Shepard

Rufin VanBossuyt

Jamie Donald

Brad Smith

Denis Melican

Gary Jacobs

Kendra Gurney, N.E. Science Coordinator

Guests

Bryan Burhans, TAC/CEO

10:15	Meeting Opened
New England Grows	After discussing this venue for outreach Brian Clark made a motion that we secure a booth at this event to be held from Feb. 6, 7, 8, with registration of \$100. This motion was seconded and approved. Elizabeth Hammond will follow up on this and recruit Board Members to man this booth on those days.
Land & Water Conservation Summit	This annual conference will be held on 3/3/2013. Tables for this event are limited, however we can place an advertisement in their literature for \$100. Guy Shepard made a motion to send them \$100 for this, and Treasurer Novak requested that his information be transferred to him for his annual report. This motion was passed and seconded.
Future of MA/RI TACF	President Yvonne Federowicz proposed that we begin working on a 5 year plan to direct the future of our Chapter. Everyone agreed this should be pursued.
Grant Status	We discussed the timeliness of purchasing irrigation systems, products for Smith College, and how much "over budget" we would be on grant monies that need to be spent by the end of the year. Bryan Burhans suggested that we let him know how much "over" we are on our figures, and suggested that we immediately purchase necessary bulk supplies that we could get discounts on. Brian Clark added that this would enable us to take advantage of "bulk" discounts and that we should coordinate our orders to purchase things like tree protectors, landscape fabric and bamboo stakes.

	<p>Yvonne suggested purchasing about \$1,000 worth of bulk planting supplies as it is better for us to spend more rather than less on these supplies. Jamie indicated that he could order 2 irrigation systems, which would give us an extra system for the next orchard.</p> <p>It was agreed to spend \$2,500 on planting materials and \$1,000 on irrigation and \$2,500 on supplies.</p>
Bylaw Amendment	<p>An amendment to MA/RI TACF bylaws was proposed that would negate the clause that prevented a Board Member from serving more than a single four year term, this reads:</p> <p>“To amend Section 4.2 of the Bylaws, Term of Office, by deleting the provision for term limits for Directors.”</p> <p>Comments included Jamie Donald wondering if this would prevent new members from being included; Elizabeth Hammond also reminded us that we need to have room for new Board Members, and a mechanism for them to be included; we should revisit this each year.</p> <p>Rufin added that National Board Members who do not attend at least 3 consecutive meetings are asked to resign from the board.</p> <p>Brian Clark made a motion, seconded by Rufin that we change the bylaw, as written. This was seconded and approved.</p>
Guest Speaker	<p>Bryan Burhans addressed the group, with future TACF directions, new information on fundraising, new staff, and how we can go from a 2.5 million dollar organization to the needed \$10,000,000 we need to go forward with research, orchards, planting, etc.</p>
Future	<p>Bryan indicated that we are at a crossroads in the organization, and although we have been able to grow nationally at 20% per year, the next 5 – 10 years may be financially difficult, and we need to look at our membership to include substantial donors.</p>
Finance	<p>Donor opportunities were addressed , from both a donor and a regional level. Some donors may want to be part of the “grand plan” and “big picture” and others on a more local level. National would like to be kept abreast of this, for both the near and distant future.</p> <p>Bryan advised that State Chapters are best to work with National, especially now that they have dedicated staff to this position that looks at the “big picture” and are versed in the grant process.</p>
Future Plans	<p>Bryan Burhans indicated that the final touches are now being laid for what he termed the “fluid plan,” and he encourages comments so that we can lay the groundwork for the future, to be evaluated each year, and to address subjects that have not been discussed before.</p>
11:00	<p>Business meeting concluded.</p>