

## **MA/RI-TACF Summer Quarterly Meeting Minutes 7/31/16**

Springfield Park, Pittsfield, MA

“Manor House”

### **Orchard Managers Meeting**

Lois Breault-Melican, Denis Melican, Mark Meehl, Josh Soojian, Dave Lent, Rufin Van Bossuyt, Kathy Desjardin, Bob Presutti (Pittsfield), Brian Clark, Grey Curtis, John Emery, Yvonne Federowicz, Karen Jones

Jim Pelletier, Shep Spear, Chris Horton – Pittsfield

Seed orchards in Berkshires: Trustees of Reservations – possible good volunteer bases

### **Seed orchards**

Orchard needs:

Another Graves Orchard needed

2 more Clapper Blocks needed

Demo trees: we need replacements at numerous sites for trees that died

Ecotarium would like Demo trees

Wayside Inn: would like to replace next spring if no releafing

### **MA/RI-TACF Board Meeting:**

**11:15am due to Lisa's afternoon visit**

Present: same as morning meeting

Plus Jamie Donalds, Brad Smith, Lisa Thompson

Minutes of Spring MA/RI-TACF Board Meeting passed unanimously

### **Treasurer Report: Michael Novack**

Some expenses higher this year

SCA funds all used; we plan to repeat use of program

Unusual watering bill – one-time

We need to begin fundraising for SCA group for next year – now

Motion: accept Treasurer's Report – passed unanimously

### **Secretary's Report: Kathy Desjardin**

We plan to donate a membership to Marion Larson – Mass Fish & Wildlife

We are now members of:  
Mass Land Trust Coalition  
Environmental Council of RI

**Signage:** we need more at our orchards  
Ask Roy re. What other groups are doing for signage

**Communications Report:** Yvonne  
Discussed TACF WordPress-based website; delayed until September

We need to always test our soil  
Grey suggests that multiple soil horizons be tested

**Interns:** Jim DiMaio could be a potential source of interns  
He works with forestry students

**Events:**  
August 19<sup>th</sup> SCA Americorps graduation – Hawley – RSVP  
Lois, Denis, and Michael may attend

Autumn Meeting October 29<sup>th</sup>: Norcross

Annual Meeting – hopefully at SKLT Barn

Garlic & Arts festival Sept. 24-25  
September 10<sup>th</sup>: New England Regional Meeting  
Fryburg Faire in Maine – 10 days – Maine would love our help  
Could be housing offered. Is not far into Maine.

**Boullard Memorial Farm presentation**  
by Grey Curtis

Chinese chestnuts in old orchard – 1926  
too close for seed orchard to be in cleared area  
but Demo Planting possible  
in Holliston  
The pasture is likely far enough from Chinese chestnuts to be used for our orchards

Broke for lunch  
We toured the Pittsfield Seed Orchard with Lisa Thompson, Bob Presutti and other Pittsfield seed orchard volunteers. It's looking good! Few weeds were spotted.

1:30pm continuation of Board Mtg

**Orchard Report** – Brian Clark

Presented 2016 Orchard Summary to date

**Seed orchards: got 10,600 new plants in**

Numerous BC3 selections are now dying back from inoculations  
Some may have dropoffs from inoculations

Nanking: 13 lines, 2 more this spring so possibly 15 by next spring

New breeding orchard at Tantasqua Middle School

Inoculations – 3 orchards were done  
Final selections Stockbridge

Ratings at Littleton and Stockbridge

Data collection: production output from different trees in breeding orchards

We may want to refrain from collecting huge numbers of seed from certain trees

Jamie has more seed, may pot up more – will coordinate with Brian

**SCA Americorps Review**

**Future Possible Improvements:**

More training at beginning, including supervisor  
Moving between sites was difficult; commute time was counted

Special Americorps training site?

At John Emery's house, the visit was great

More training: Americorps build bridges! Motivation was missing

We must do a presentation beforehand, very important

Kids need to understand the importance of this work

MassWildlife: might consider paying for an SCA period if SCA could also help with invasives  
– will be pursued

Correction facility inmates? Often are very limited in what they can do

**Nominations Committee:** Jamie, Josh, Yvonne

Will put together nominations slate for our annual meeting

Please submit names to Jamie

**Scraggy Neck presentation** by Grey Curtis

Island in Buzzards Bay

Needs a GPA still to use our seedlings but might be solvable

Bristol Aggie always has extra seedlings, might go there once legal issues solved

GPA is being revised (Lisa)

Motion: Authorized Jamie to attempt to recruit an attorney onto our Board

Passed unanimously

Tantasqua High School: Jessie Green – kids were wonderful at the presentation Lois and Denis gave; also pollinated trees in tornado damage area of Monson

Town wants to highlight chestnuts

**Lisa Thompson – presentation**

TACF President and CEO

20 yrs with TNC

TACF has 15 staff now

Asheville now needs a TACF science coordinator

**(We love Kendra!)**

Kendra has chickens now...

**Dr. Jared Westbrook's work:** breeding plan is now available; is being vetted by many people, need best practices

New technologies becoming available; we are hoping to be able to speed up work

Small stem assays: inoculation of seedlings as young trees, using mild blight; we then don't have to grow whole tree if non-resistant

**Speeding up selection** is one of Jared's main charges: hoping that they can get down to 500 trees (Meadowview)

**Genomic testing** price going way down

Sequencing of pure Americans and Chinese

Hudson-Alison Genomics – partnership likely; non-profit; \$150K per tree to map whole thing

**Strategic Planning Committee:** working on a shared vision

America now enjoys a healthy diverse hardwood forest

Our work could be a model for other hardwoods with pathogens

**SUNY's work** – we have different camps of beliefs

3-Bur Committee: Backcross, biocontrol, biotech

Need to increase communications and trust

GMO SUNY chestnuts very likely coming; how to work with the various tree types still an issue

Perception and reality on the GMOs are often very different

We commented on how important Kendra Collins is to our work, we very greatly enjoy working with her and would like to support her as much as possible. Also the other staff.

Annual Meeting: RI SKLT “Barn” or Harvard Forest

Lisa and Jerod could speak at our Annual Meeting

Potluck – signup – Lois will work on

Adjourned at 3:24pm