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MA/RI TACF Quarterly Meeting Spring 2010 4/24/2010

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Morning Orchard Meeting 10:30 am

Present Jamie Donalds, Rich Hoffman, Brian Clarke, Denis Melican, Lois Breau-Melican, Kathy Desjardin, Yvonne Federowicz, Mike Novack, John Meiklejohn, Brad Smith, Charlotte Zampini, John Emery, Guy Shepard

Roguing out trees at Tower Hill

Jamie spoke with Rufin – possibly stump grinding? Could be expensive.

Jamie would like to have each spot taken care of.

Anchoring bucket down over shoots? Putting tarp over? Keep mowing after a few years they won't keep coming back?

Stump grinding may be expensive and time-consuming – but might be good if we want to put seed orchards in.

“Root jack” - Mike N.

Pull out with chain

Cordless sawzaw

Smaller stump grinder?

Root grafting – roundup on one can spread to adjacent trees – roots can go 2-3 times the dripline.

John Emery plans to experiment on his orchard removing trees this summer – final selections to be done in Wayland this summer.

Can cut tree, drill holes in stump, fill with water and cover with wet leaves – promotes rot, makes easier next year to remove rest - Denis

Need to be extra careful not to cut wrong trees of course

Burning?

Chipping – rent

Blight can survive on dead wood up to 6 months

We should make chestnut walking sticks and such, poles for fencing

Can make fencing

Coasters

Polyethylene glycol & water solution keeps it from splitting

Coasters can be unfinished, oil finished, finished, etc

John Emery might burn the cankered parts, chip some

Inoculations: 5 or 6 orchards this year. We could need help.

Planting:

Don't put hardware cloth deeper than 3 inches – roots will grow through

No one has had trouble with voles when blux was in, except once – bluxes not in very well.

If Blux down 2 inches, not an issue.

Seed orchard: would be good to have a block or two in RI.

1 acre for 1 block better. If 50% larger, can be reused because after 3 years, remaining ones can be left and can add new batch.

Could be about 5 years from now.

More intensive, short-term work. Less work per tree.

Bluxes should be ok against voles.

Greater planting effort. Best to plow whole area. SO initial effort higher.

Grass is biggest enemy.

Lots of things eat voles.

6 yards good

Donut

Board ok with \$180.

Pollination – Nanking lines – Grafton orchard site

F1s would be good too – Charlotte would like to do more F1s on the Upton this year.

Rich Hoffman has 40-50 F1s – 2 years old, about 6 ft tall

John M. - Chinese in Granville – tall

Upton State Forest needed a 60 foot bucket truck

Need tree reports

Mike N. - Appalachian Trail people are watching some trees that have occasionally produced burs

Want at least 4 trees ipollinated this year

Yvonne might know of 4 in RI, will check on

BC3F3 – Rufin has 50.

Inoculations & selections get us prepared

June 10, 11 Wayland & Lincoln – Kendra will come down

June 19 Kendra available

She prefers weekdays

Charlotte away until June 4th

Inoculations

Sterling – Charlotte wants to do

Medway – large orchard – Gary to be away but needs to be done

Trees are large also

Moore State Park – ready to be done

Grafton is ready, owner is 97

Owner may have passed away

Uxbridge getting close -

What is the minimum percentage of trees in orchard of size 1.5 inches DBH that we want to count as a cutoff? We should be consistent.

20% or so of trees will never make it.

Next year – Ashfield-Hawley – huge orchard

We'll have to do next year everything borderline this year

Lincoln/Wrentham – half-done

Granville: John would like to wait

Kathy: would like to assess her orchard more, probably wait

Adam will be available for intern work this summer.

\$5K available from Frank Howard for Intern pay.

Inoculated trees need to be assisted as much as possible – regular fertilizing, irrigation if low rain, etc.

Denis & Lois also know of a volunteer

MG – could switch Nanking to Seed in about 5 years or find additional spot

Jamie – do we have orphan orchards? who has the comprehensive list? Contacts, managers?

New database will have those capabilities -yf

Charlotte needs GPS - Yvonne has one

Most agrifos-treated trees had no fruiting fungus on them – Charlotte

Most untreated ones did

Probably has to be applied every year. Need to keep it unmixed.

Brian's Americans probably ok in orchard – most American resistance low-level.

Worth planting a few. Our resistance mostly compared to F1s so probably ok if Americans slightly ok.

John Emery needs 6 Americans, Yvonne will pot.

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Afternoon Board Meeting

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1:10 pm

Kathy, Denis, Lois, Brian, Rich, Charlotte, Jamie, Guy, Brad, John Meiklejohn, John Mirick, Mike Meixsell, Mike Novack, Yvonne Federowicz

Members

Elizabeth Hammond, Jim Royer

Intro to Dunn Pond State Park

Gifted to Town in 1896 by a chair manufacturer

Devastated by 1938 hurricane

Pond filled in slowly; in 1970s money available for dredging

1985 became a state park

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Treasurer Report

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Donations up somewhat

Orchard signage – have a record of where we bought these, but our contact in VT may be gone. Some signs are delaminating.

Extra protection around the edge is always good even on good laminate, Mike Novack says.

Data gathering: discussed in National BOD meeting. Jamie reported.

Discussion of data access issues: balance between openness and agreement to give proper attribution, etc.

Want to have people sign agreement that they'll give proper attribution.

Hubbard Brook model -

contact person, agreement to give attribution etc.

Patenting plants requires that you have developed plants.

Hostile researchers can always question results.

Charlotte:

Contact person gives data, but there is assumption that the data will be given.
Have to give acknowledgement.

Can't set entire policy around one person.

Charlotte:

policy executive committee as “gatekeeper” – assumption is that they will approve.

Comment: it's helpful to have people as gateway so questions can be answered

MOTION:
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Data summaries will be downloadable; raw data will require a request to be reviewed by a chapter committee. Board encourages use of our data for scientific research. Charlotte, seconded by John Meiklejohn.
Passed, none opposed.

Summaries from database:-

available to everyone

Raw data requests to be reviewed by committee before allowed.

Science Cabinet at National will be their “Gatekeeper”

Secretary's Report – Kathy

MOTION –
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accept winter minutes – Kathy, seconded Charlotte
passed unanimously.

320 members

Rufin followed up – contact from lady growing elms from Princeton

Old Sturbridge Village

In autumn, they included info on roasted chestnuts – led to

Building built down at Meadowview.

Good research lab is expensive. Cost around \$600K

New National Magazine:

Mike Novack: if it's internet-only, what about people w/o high-speed access?

Jamie will talk to National for a way to get printed copies to people with limited or no Internet access.

Can put on CD or print out.

Alternatively low-res PDF.

Charlotte: will lab test pollen viability before sending out?

Jamie: lab not ready yet, not this year?

Jamie will ask National.

National finances are in good shape. Stable. Success

National has been using Facebook & Twitter.

Good to keep FB updated.

Yvonne offered to work on chapter FB. Should be Friend of National.

Brad also will work on.

Development Cabinet has a new Chair, Jamie on Membership committee. Would like at least one
Restoration event by next year in each chapter.

B3F3 plantings

Rufin, Denis & Lois met w/Mr. (Giadano?) at Old Sturbridge Village. Highly visible spot.

Decided on locations. Woodland trail w/interpretive signage.

Putting 2 trees from Greg Miller. Any Board members can get free admission that day – Saturday May 1. 1:00. Numerous Board members to attend.

Could be a good article for the Journal.

Would like to put in more trees – perhaps a few every year.

Restoration Branch event, possible annual meeting location.

OSV is interested in selling “Mighty Giants”. Can be a great ongoing relationship.

Princeton, MA – Audubon Sanctuary.

Bookshop – could carry the books. Have fields, not sure if they would commit land.

BC3F3 – what is good number? At least 3. Preferably 6. Choosing good sites important.

Demonstration plantings need about 3 surviving trees, perhaps a half dozen would be better.

Bury mothballs around trees to hide vole repellants?

Use rogued out trees around the seedlings for protection

Bitrex will be good.

Rest of BC3F3s: management of 59 seeds (and 2 seedlings.)

Rufin has potted these up.

Guidelines to sites we'd like to use?

Case by case? Email?

Sturbridge,
Walden Woods
Tower Hill

Neutaconkanut Hill in Providence
Glocester, RI Land Trust
RI NHS – more a scientific planting

Possibly Arnold Arboretum

Raffle at Restoration Branch Event – 2 seedlings? - Jamie
Probably only having about 3 events this year

Kathy offered to make a “master list”

Visibility
Contacts
Networking
Restoration Branch Possibilities,
High probability of long-term care
Room for 6 trees

Contact National for larger-scale test planting possibilities

Potential within a few years to have large amounts of seed

These are demonstration plantings, not progeny

Our First Restoration Event!
Elizabeth: Restoration Branch Event – John Mirick's house

Tour of orchard, presentation
Next year – possibilities include Wachusett Mountain, other sites

Approaches to getting attendees – National had best luck with personal invitations

Restoration Branch Event – about getting members

John Mirick focusing on local town

Seed Orchards

How big do they need to be?

Charlotte will clarify how many blocks we will need;
adding the “extra space” means you can do the procedure several times in the same space.

Moore State Park Seed Orchard: meeting in January with all MA Foresters

Timing: should know sure within a month.

We'd need to quantify how many blocks we'd want to put at Moore.

John Meiklejohn – might be working on first Easement on private property in MA for an orchard.

Easements: NEFF has many, many. Including some in Granville. Already did create an easement right down the street from John.

BC3 & seed orchards

Jim Coull is involved w/NEFF, and we have had meetings at their headquarters.

John Mirick: Beales - Chestnut Hill Farm
Trustees of Reservations

Trustees charge for monitoring conservation restrictions

Ecology program manager at Trustees is very enthusiastic. We'd be the volunteer labor to start, would like them to handle mowing.

Trustees would like to do an interpretive program with this. Fits into their educational components.

Trustees have many properties all over state, we could likely get involved in another property with restoration planting eventually.

Kathy: Trustee in Andover was interested in planting chestnut up there.

9 acres per source of resistance – John Emery.

So 18 or 27. (Nanking?)

Minimum of 10 acres at any given time. Right now we might be talking about 5-7.

A block in Western MA, one in RI

Inoculation planning for this year:

Wrentham/Lincoln June 10-11
w/ Kendra

Sterling

Medway

Moore State Park

Grafton

Possibly next year:

Uxbridge

Hawley

Granville

Intern: Adam for this summer

Inoculation, roguing, being point person.

Graduate w/degree in biology; can devote 2-3 days/week, will be in school in autumn w/Masters in Teaching

Charlotte suggests hourly, she monitors weekly, ceiling on total

10 weeks at \$16/hour -> \$3840
24 hours/wk

MOTION –
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make offer to Adam Wiskofske for an internship -10 weeks, 24 hrs/wk + travel expenses; base \$16/hour. \$.40/mile travel expenses; duties to include roguing, inoculations, other orchard management.

Passed unanimously
Jamie's motion, Mike Meixsell seconds.

Charlotte will be point person.
If anyone needs help from Adam, contact Charlotte.
Development plan for seed orchards... another thing he might help with.

We will need several teams of 4 for each orchard.

Need at least 4 mother trees this year.

Littleton tree on NEFF land – Jim Coull will check out

3 small Glocester, RI trees; 1 Cranston, RI tree

2 or 3 Wayland/Sudbury trees

Conway tree – Brian Clark

Pollen viability – Charlotte can test it but usually we don't have time

John Emery wasted 20 hours last year on dead pollen

Jamie will follow up with National on how we can get more reliable pollens

How many Nanking lines does National have, can we get mixed pollens? If they have enough that would help viability on average.

Get Healthy By Walking in State Parks – June 19 -
Lois & Denis – chestnuts related to nutrition

Compare apples and chestnuts nutritionally

Date & place for summer board meeting

Sunday July 25th somewhere - Jamie will investigate

Legacy Trees: program has changed, might be easier to sponsor one.

Retired Board Members - Plaques

Frank Howard & Jim Garland – Kathy checked out plaques – can get info onto wood, Guy will provide wood.

Wording: get a small group to come up with wording.

Charlotte, Jamie, and Brad will help with wording.

Annual Meeting: November 13th.

Adjourned 4:03pm