

MA/RI Draft notes of Quarterly Meeting 4/15/12, Purgatory Chasm State Reservation, Sutton MA

ORCHARD MANAGER'S PRESENT: Yvonne Federowicz, President; Lois Melican, Vice-President; Mike Novak, Treasurer, Kathy Desjardins, Secretary; Brian Clark, Denis Melican, John Mirick, Gary Jacobs, Rufin VanBossy, Charlotte Zampini Brad Smith, John Meiklejohn, Roy Najecki, Jamie Donald, Kendra Gurney, John Emery, Science Coordinator

VISITORS: Paul Wetzell, Smith College, Val Stegemoen, Park Supervisor

OPEN MEETING	10:10 a.m.
MUTT NUT UPDATES	<p>Nuts were given go Professor Tom Webb, who was a speaker at a past TACF MA/RI Annual Meeting. He is now retired and own lots of land next to a Land Trust property. He has planted 100 mutt nuts in blue X tubes with help from Yvonne.</p> <p>Charlotte Z suggested this may be a good place for a Nanking line. Yvonne suggested that as he didn't volunteer to do this, maybe we should wait and see how the existing planting goes, and she will keep him in mind for a Nanking line.</p> <p>Brian Bastarache, from the Bristol County Agricultural School has some nuts.</p> <p>Brian C still has about 8 pounds of these nuts in his refrigerator. Mike N has 20 in pots in the ground.</p> <p>Paul W asked about nuts that he can plant in the woods to see about chances of survival – Charlotte has lots of nuts and said that any large scale plantings that are done also could be used to check for American characteristics – Paul W wondered if this would be reflected in a planting and Charlotte did said that there is a lot of variation in American populations.</p>
DEMO PLANTING COMMITTEE REPORT	<p>Rufin planted 5 nuts at the Woods Hole Research Center. There was a representative from Nstar, as well as a local Falmouth newspaper reporter. Kathy D and Elizabeth H went with Rufin to the Berlin School, where 3 teachers and 20 5th and 6th grade students, as well as a handful of Berlin ConCom members were present.</p> <p>Rufin has 4 nuts for Wachusett Meadow planting on Arbor Day. He also has 8 one year seedlings to keep for next year or to use for fall or spring plantings.</p> <p>There are B3F3 that are now in pots. (It was noted that there have been problems with plants dying in Stuewe pots due to dark color of the pot causing the pot to overheat in the sun) Mike N suggested keeping them in milk crates eliminates this problem, Gary J said that wrapping white paper around these pots can also eliminate the problem. Rufin said that he puts these pots in laundry baskets with holes in the bottom, this also works to prevent overheating of the pots.</p>

	<p>Wilcox Park took 3 seedlings and are going to grow them a bit before planting.</p> <p>Roger Williams park would like nuts and Yvonne has 5 for here.</p> <p>Gilbert Steward only has 3, possibly Rufin can give them 2 for his stock so that they will have five plants going in.</p> <p>Denis suggested transplanting 6 seeds from Moore State Park. The group agreed that Old Sturbridge Village would be a good spot, possibly siting these in a more noticeable location. Denis will call/email Rich Giordana at OSV and work on this transfer.</p> <p>Rufin said that Greg Miller at National Meeting had lots of pure Americans available and Charlotte also has a few hundred of these.</p> <p>Bruce Spencer would like to do more test plantings with mutt nuts.</p> <p>John Meiklejohn said he has a couple that he would like to plant nuts at a nearby farmers land and possibly we could plant more if this works out.</p> <p>Rufin has a request from the town of Easton MA and he suggested maybe we could plant some pure Americans (wouldn't require a germplasm agreement)</p> <p>River Bend Farm has a site ½ mile from the Visitor Center, along Hartford Avenue, that also has a kiosk available. Rufin suggested a fall planting, around September 15th. Val Stegemoen said there is no water there, but there is a neighbor nearby that may help.</p> <p>The Planting Committee will prioritize this list for now, and fall plantings will be discussed at the summer meeting.</p> <p>Lois M said Big E has one American that has grown to 10 feet and is producing nuts, however a new plant that was put in two years ago was run over, and it's unsure if the plant is still alive. The Big E would like another plant to replace this one if it does not make it.</p>
<p>NEW APPROACH TO BC3 CROSSES</p>	<p>Kendra said that there are certain assumptions that have been made with some gray areas when it comes to seed orchards.</p> <p>The main issue is with controlled and open pollinations.</p> <p>Kendra has hand out that she passed out and which is added to these notes, and suggested that we set up a conference call to discuss this when we have more time for those who are interested. Charlotte, Mike N. Yvonne. (?)</p>
<p>BC3F2 CREATIONS</p>	<p>What are we going to do to supply nuts for upcoming seed orchards (Graves & Clapper?) Will the trees in Granville will need controlled pollinations to use these selections?</p> <p>Charlotte suggests doing controlled pollinations with what we have selected so far. There are still 3 orchards that will need to have the 2nd selections done.</p>

	<p>We will not be planting in Granville this year, except for controls. We need to create nuts now for 2013 planting and this needs to be done before June.</p> <p>Lincoln has 4 lines; can we finalize this year?</p>
<p>SUMMER ROGUING PREPARATIONS</p>	<p>Roguing was discussed next, and Yvonne said that we will be hiring someone to help with roguing as we have a \$2500. grant for this. There was talk about getting quotes for this, and it was suggested that we get three quotes. However we probably need actual numbers to get these quotes.</p> <p>Rufin thinks we will have to chip these, as burning is not an option this year due to dry conditions. Charlotte's permit specifies burning, per way of Meadowview's protocol. Kendra discussed options and burning was the only method National was comfortable. Charlotte suggested that maybe we could chip and bury and maybe that National should make this policy to make it available to other chapters. Kendra thought that she may not be comfortable with this. RVB said that we have different regulations in different states.</p> <p>We will coordinate this on an orchard by orchard basis.</p> <p>Jamie will get quotes on this, and will let the executive committee know via email and they will make a decision on this.</p> <p>Rufin may be able to get a crew donated by National Grid, and Jamie mentioned insurance. Rufin said these people were experienced and insured.</p> <p>Kendra G suggested we should get a standard proposal together before we send anything out. Jamie, Rufin and Denis and the roguing committee.</p> <p>Ashfield, Moore, Medfield, Lincoln, Granville are orchards that need to be rogued this year.</p> <p>Rufin asked if possibly Susan and Gerry Cormier had contact with the Sterling orchard owner, and couldl we should call them CZ and see if they can contact the owners.</p>
<p>NANKING ORCHARDS</p>	<p>We have enough nuts for one orchard. Brian Clark has many of these. John Emery needs a 2nd line of Nankings for this spring for planting in Wayland. BC has a few hundred seedlings.</p> <p>Brian Clark will put all his trees in Hawley, but has seedlings available</p> <p>Lois & Denis will contact the Wire Village School in Spencer and see about pollination of the flowering chestnut tree tree this summer.</p> <p>Phytophthera (ink disease) has been discovered in the South entire orchards have been lost to this disease. Anne Myers is looking for material for research on this.</p>

SMITH COLLEGE	<p>The college has 240 acres in Whately MA with pastured areas. There's a new building there to be used as a classroom/meeting space. There is interest in chestnut for seed orchards here.</p> <p>Mike Novak and Brian Clark looked at a spot near the building the field manager from Smith. Paul has gotten positive feedback and go ahead from college officials on this. They have water and labor available.</p> <p>Paul says that if Smith College could get materials and advice from TACF, the college could provide the care for this project. Students could set up fence, water, weed, rogue out, etc, as needed. This would make a nice educational component for the college. Bulletin boards are available and a student could create a display on this. In the future grammar schools will be coming through this area.</p> <p>BC said that the site looked ideal with SE exposure with a gentle slope, good soil, 30 GPM well output, and the area was loaded with chestnut stumps that were removed during clearing. It's close to the Northampton Reservoir in good area for display and publicity.</p> <p>Timeline – it would be possible to set this up soon. The building will be open in June, the site is somewhat cleared of debris. The site could use a fence, which could go in this year, with the idea of planting next year. Brian C said that it would be a good idea to put out some mutt nuts and see how things go. Charlotte Z added that deer can do lots of damage in a seed orchard because of the density of the planting.</p> <p>Paul asked if we could get resources for this, as well as some type of agreement between Smith College and TACF on this. Yvonne F had a copy of the latest seed orchard for south Kingston easement, which is probably what they would like. John M will give Paul the updates on the agreement including the use of pesticides and insecticides for that site. Paul W said that the site is near a well, and as there are students available there may not be a need for herbicides, as mulching will also work for this. Brian C thought that we should prepare a new agreement specific to Smith College – John M agreed and he will put this together.</p> <p>Roy N said that we will decide at the afternoon board meeting how much \$ will be provided to this orchard. Paul would like to get the fence this summer.</p>
MEETING AJOURNED	12:20 PM

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Meeting began at 1:10

SECRETARY'S REPORT	<p>Chapter now has 331 members</p> <p>EVENTS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rufin led a walk in Orleans with 15 people, including a professor from Mass Maritime Academy who ended up joining TACF when he went home that night. Rufin told him about some nearly chestnut trees and he took some students there.• Jamie and Brad staffed a table at the Mass Land Trust Coalition's Annual Conference, with many visitors stopping by. MA/RI TACF joined this group at the basic Friends level.• Lois & Denis set up a table at the Westfield State University Watershed event. Elizabeth Hammond visited Broadmoor Audubon Sanctuary and put on a program for home school children.• Kathy received an email from Irwin Schwartz who reported a blooming chestnut in Dover which Kathy forwarded to Charlotte. She also received an email from Richard Savory who said there was loads of nuts at Prescott Peninsula• Five trees were planted at the Woods Hole Research Center.• On April 28th Yvonne will host an outdoor table at Bristol County High School 10 – 4. This is being billed as an outdoor, fun event for families.• On April 21 there will be a planting at Roger Williams Park.• On April 28th the VT/NH TACF chapter will host their annual meeting at Beaver Brook Association in Hollis NH, MA/RI members are invited to attend.• Yvonne asked if we could join the Rhode Island Land & Water Conference an annual event in March, and suggested that we may want to join other organizations like this. Mike N said that we should only be joining other 501C3 organizations, in order to avoid lots of red tape. <p>Kathy has copies of germplasm agreements if anyone wants them.</p> <p>Kendra said there is discussion at the National Level about the material in the Learning boxes, and it was suggested that we create similar boxes with artifacts that we could take to events.</p>
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	<p>The Learning Box is currently at Wachusett Meadow, and Kathy will pick this up on the Sunday planting there and will get this to Yvonne for her presentation at Bristol County Aggie the week after. A motion was made to order 2 more of these boxes, so that we could keep them in different regions of the state so that they would be available for anyone doing presentations.</p>
<p>TREASURER'S REPORT</p>	<p>Mike N did not close the books to clarify things that were left over from last year. Please remind Mike next fall about outstanding liabilities? Such as credit card bills, especially transactions from December. He also asked that we report where the Mighty Giant books are being donated so he can keep track of these. A small amount of money was made at the Restoration Branch Event, where the money is in a MA/RI branch account at National. Mike N would like to keep this account and John M said that we only need to show the money that we have on hand in our own accounts here, monies from National will be added as we get it. Treasurer's report was reviewed and accepted.</p>
<p>SEED ORCHARDS AND AGREEMENTS</p>	<p>The question was raised about what do we need/want from these agreements? National's draft has most of the same things on their agreement that we have on ours.</p> <p>Although the ideal situation is to own land, this is not feasible for our group. The next best situation is a recorded easement.</p> <p><u>Recorded easement/conservation restriction</u> This works well over time as board members change and relationships will change. Easements are recorded at the registry of deeds and are binding, with a certain time line (which can be extended.) This gives us clear legal rights on both sides of the agreement. We want exclusive use of the land for a seed orchard, as well as access to it. John E asked about exclusions – John M said this would be discussed with the landowner about things they want to exclude. We may also want to perform other duties within this area such as educational events, volunteers working programs, etc. The use of chemicals in the orchard is probably not a good restriction for us to have included.</p> <p><u>Lease</u> The problem with a lease is that it requires reciprocal needs and we do not want requirements on these agreements. Breaking a lease can be done and this would not be a good situation for our chapter. We are interested in the trees, not in being reciprocated because someone wanted to take them down.</p> <p><u>Memorandum of Understanding</u> This would be the type of agreement that we have with state agencies and organizations. We can agree that the material is ours; however, we are at the mercy of the agency on many other factors. The risk factor is that the agency will change their mind. This would be a small risk with Army Corps or DCR, but urban locations could be different.</p> <p>Kendra said that one of the things that other chapters have built into MOUs is a yearly meeting about the decision and document. This pretty much ensures a good agreement between parties. John M agreed that cultivating relationships often helps to avoid issues. The only problem can be with change of ownership. This can also work in a state or public agency. Anytime there is the opportunity for policy changes, this can cause for some risk.</p>

In RI, liability requires the Attorney General to get involved to defend the agreement. A land trust or other holder does not have to bear the entire burden.

We need a way of establishing what land is really subject to a spectrum of opportunities. A registered land surveyor survey deed at the registry is the best way to get this done. This could cost \$800 - \$900. This is the gold standard. You can use a non-registered land surveyors' plan which is as simple as a sketch denoting the area and location. An aerial photograph will work. In an urban area you probably need more specification. This is pretty site specific.

Roy N asked if a 3rd party can sue to compel us to do anything. If we are neglecting the operation, the owner may come to us and ask if they could terminate the easement. We have the right, but not the obligation.

We are currently working w. S. Kingston agreement, the ACE MOU is being drafted, and we're working with John & Sarah Meiklejohn on their agreement. We will review what will need to be done with Smith College, Paul W. has copy of John's document.

JM said that the legal aspects of this should not be an impediment. Board only needs to have bullet points for him to use.

John M made a motion that we approve the easement, using the bullet points of Jan 18, 2011, with S. Kingston Land Trust, without the bullet point of pesticides. We discussed these bullets points, and John asked that we vote on this.

A MOTION WAS MADE, SECONDED AND APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

A special thanks to John Mirick for his legal expertise.

The Army Corps of Engineers (ACE) agreement does not include many things that we did not talk with Jean or Viola about before. Monitoring and watering needs must be addressed. Yvonne F said we need a list of things they need to do. Mike N said that they may not be able to do this, due to the nature of their duties. John M suggests that we not commit to using these properties unless we can commit to doing the needed work. This would be true even with any easement. Jamie D is leery about access to property, care of the site, and wondered why would this be such a good spot for this? The advantage is the volunteer groups that do projects, they have equipment that is already on site, they are not in a flood zone and these are not properties that will have any other use for a long time. Charlotte Z does not think they (ACE) can do all the work, so we may need to develop contacts with the volunteer groups there, and suggested starting with a test planting to see if we get the support we need there. ACE in PA may be a good person to talk to on this.

Granville and S. Kingston are the only seed orchards we have planned for now. Smith College will not be online until next year. Charlotte Z said we will need to

	<p>ramp up the volunteer activities on this site.</p> <p>Lois M suggested that more outreach on our part to volunteers and partners may be a good idea. We can give presentations and educational programs where we want these orchards. Gary J suggested that we draw up our own management plan for all seed orchards.</p> <p>JAMIE MAKES A MOTION THAT WE SUPPPORT AND MOVE FORWARD WITH THIS PRELIMINARY AGREEMENT WITH ARMY CORPS ON ENGINEERS. This motion was seconded and passed.</p> <p>John M let’s get the agreement done and work on it on a test basis – if we use this for a year or two and things go well, we can then use this agreement as a model.</p> <p>Yvonne F would like the board to make suggestions about what to do with nuts that we have now. We have 2 sets of two plots each worth of BC3F3 Clapper nuts in each of 2 locations. A complete plot at S Kingston and enough for a 2nd location. Then if there’s an ACE plot, we could to go forward with this. Kendra G said the MOU that National have with the ACE may work for this.</p> <p>Should the Smith seed orchard be a Clapper as we have the nuts? Charlotte Z said this will start to equalize in the next few years as we start getting more Graves. Charlotte Z would rather get these into the ground soon.</p> <p>Kendra G has greenhouse space and an intern if we have extra nuts. Jamie D asked if we are we better off potting them up or putting them in the ground somewhere we do not have an agreement. Charlotte Z said we can figure this out in the next 2 or 3 weeks. We agreed that if a site looks good, let’s plant nuts on the basis of a board member’s suggestion.</p>
	<p>As of the end of December, John completed the CR for the property and now has copies of CR. Property is under Chapter 61. At the next board meeting John Mirick and John Meiklejohn will have the agreement finalized.</p> <p>John Meiklejohn’s field is in good shape due to past work parties. Friends and neighbors have helped and it’s almost done and ready for the fence to be put in. He needs about \$800 more to finish the needed work. John wanted to make sure the board OK’s this request.</p> <p>Yvonne F said last year’s money has all been spent, and we have a new grant.</p> <p>JAMIE D MADE A MOTION THAT THE BOARD APPROVES THE \$800 FROM GRANT MONEY TO FINISH ANY FIELD PREP AT THE GRANVILLE SEED ORCHARD SITE. THIS WAS SECONDED AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.</p>
DEER FENCE	<p>John is ready to put up the deer fence, and would like to schedule time in June and July to go on project. John and Brian will do this early in June. Fencing goes in first then irrigation and wiring for fence.</p> <p>S Kingston is putting in drip irrigation, which Gordon Jones designed. He sent</p>

	<p>the specs and layout to John Meiklejohn. If John uses this system the cost will be the same, Jamie D asked is this the right system to use or should we get another quote that would be as good but not as costly?</p> <p>Only other issue is laying down plastic or ground cloth or cover crop to prevent weeds. Grasses such as buckwheat, winter rye, or some other grass that will not be perennial or go to seed oats is a good crop for this if you keep it short. Kendra G will check with Maine to see what they are using for this. John needs authorization to buy this seed.</p>
SMITH SEED ORCHARD	A MOTION IS MADE TO GO AHEAD WITH SMITH COLLEGE SEED ORCHARD. THIS MOTION WAS SECONDED AND APPROVED.
EQUIPMENT PURCHASES.	<p>We have \$9500</p> <p>We will be getting quotes from outside vendors on roguing trees. It was asked whether or not we should have/need an intern this season and Kendra suggested Josh, who worked as a volunteer last year, as he is local. Charlotte Z suggested that we meet in small groups more often over the season.</p> <p>JMIRICK MOVES THAT AT JULY MEETING WE ARE GIVEN A PRESCRIBED AMOUNT FOR THIS TASK AND VOTE AT THAT TIME.</p> <p>Charlotte Z had questions about the laptop and projector and wondered if we could wait on this until after July? The answer was yes, and Kendra suggested that this would be an item to use grant money for.</p>
Signs	<p>The Woods Hole and Fish and Wildlife sites need signs. Fish and Wildlife is working on a sign that has info about TACF as well as Fish and Wildlife. Woods Hole and the Berlin School also need signs.</p> <p>Kendra said there are new signs in the works that will be ready soon, which we can purchase.</p> <p>Jamie D MAKE A MOTION THAT WE APPROVE \$150 PER SIGN, AMENDABLE BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, TO PURCHASE THESE SINGLE PANEL SIGNS. WE WILL PURCHASE 4 OF THESE NOW. MOTION WAS SECONDED AND APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.</p>
LEARNING BOXES	We have numerous requests for these in different regions for the state for \$250 plus shipping. JOHN MIRICK MAKES A MOTION THAT WE PURCHASE 2 MORE LEARNING BOXES. MOTION IS SECONDED AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.
MIGHTY GIANTS	Elizabeth has 2, YVONNE has 1 and Lois has 1. These books will sell for \$25. JAMIE MADE A MOTION THAT WE PURCHASE ANOTHER CASE OF 18 BOOKS. THIS MOTION WAS SECONDED AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. Lois will document these books and where they are going. MIKE N asked that these be kept in a book inventory.
PLANTING SUPPLIES/EQUIPMENT	Jamie has 3 boxes of osmocote that are paid for and unclaimed. Rufin suggested that 10-10-10 fertilizer works just as well and is less expensive. He also has Stuewe pots.
INTERN	We are not moving on this at this time
INSURANCE	Jamie looked into insurance for the work that the board does. He got a quote of \$700 per year, but did not totally understand the language. He sent it to John Mirick and thinks this will satisfy our needs. A brief summary stated that

	<p>this policy includes property liability, terrorist activities, personal effects and property, signs, a long list. He is not sure if it covers us in terms of decisions. John Mirick said it's pretty standard coverage for a good price, and thinks there is no reason to debate this document, we may as well as purchase this now.</p> <p>John Meiklejohn previously used another group and wonders if we should get a second quote for this. Carol Kirkland got a quote of \$300 or \$400 for this. Jamie D wonders if we should just purchase this and get it done. JAMIE MAKES A MOTION THAT WE APPROVE THE ZURICH SMALL BUSINESS NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION NORTH AMERICAN ASSOCIATION POLICY. AT NO MORE THAN THE \$800 THEY QUOTED FOR THIS YEAR. MOTION IS SECONDED AND APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.</p>
BRANCH EVENT	<p>Elizabeth checked, and events at Tower Hill are very expensive. As we got such a good price at Old Sturbridge Village (OSV) it was suggested that we go back there. We can also look for other venues. Jamie suggested that we table this at this time. Kathy D said Maine is doing one in Freeport in June, which we may like to attend.</p> <p>Mark Benker, from National, suggests that unless we have a separate committee for this, maybe we should just add this to our annual meeting.</p>
FUTURE EVENTS	
OCTOBER MEETING	<p>Wachusett Meadow would welcome us the 2nd week in October when the orchard is producing and we could go there and collect.</p>
ROGUING	<p>Rufin asked when we will be selecting nuts for planting this year. Jamie suggested that he would like to get the roguing done in Sterling so that we can use these nuts</p>
MEETING ADJOURNED AT 4:10	
MORE SEED ORCHARDS	<p>Mount Washington MA Kendra will meet someone there,</p>
Summer meeting	<p>July 21 in Rhode Island</p>
MEETING ADJOURNED AT 4:15 PM	