

MA/RI-TACF Spring Minutes

Macleish facility of Smith College, Whately, MA April 16, 2016

Present: Denis Melican, Lois Breault-Melican, Rich Hoffman, Jamie Donalds, Kendra Collins, Mike Novack, Brian Clark, John Meiklejohn, Rufin van Bossuyt, John Emery, Josh Soojian, Mike Grames, Paul Wetzel, Kathy Desjardin, Yvonne Federowicz

Mark Meehl,
Grey Curtis
Shep Spear

Morning Orchard Meeting **Plantings**

Granville May 14
Smith 24Apr, 9May
Americorp 23May-1June
Pittsfield 21,22 May
SKLT

Orange still hung up; extension was for 6 months. Westboro needs money to extend fence, can we switch the grant? Will Norcross allow money to be used at East Quabbin?

Regional Jr High School has site; it is small, not a seed orchard irregularly shaped. Perhaps other use

East Quabbin Land Trust: has a new site, North Brookfield; good set of volunteers. Director is good contact. Cynthia (Crynshaw?)
Need legal arrangements. Lois will do work.

MA Attorney? –

John Emery and Jamie commented that they spent a lot of time harvesting many thousands of seeds last year, time felt wasted as small percent only can be planted

We need to do 2 more Clapper blocks
Seeds as a fundraiser? Boil first to avoid GPA need, and weevils?

Sara F. needed extra seeds, some of our seeds are used for that

The Mutt nuts and extra BC3F2s could be used for foresters etc. for planting tests. National is trying to get more organized protocols.

Jamie, Paul interested in plantings.

Westboro: place needed for mowing. Don't yet have permission to put up a building. Small tents are available? Mowing needed now.

Jamie or Rufin could potentially get mower to Westboro.

Tilling new area at Westboro – uncertain where orchard to be extended yet due to new building going in at F&W, view from building needs to be ok.

Bristol Aggie can grow some seedlings for new plots.
Worcester Technical person might grow some too. Lois will look into.

John Meiklejohn has selections that don't look good.

Kendra suggests we first plant BC3F2s from selections that don't look good in case they die back. They do not always resprout.

Lois: interpretive elevator speech: phrase – craft

Research orchards:

River Bend has some decent ones; challenging to figure out which spot they were in.
Best guesses on rows. Some tags but many on ground. Will look at again when leafed out.

Dartmouth: more reengaged.

West Boyleston:

Inoculations 2016:

Foster – trees are big

Princeton

Uxbridge

River Bend

Jamie's group can help with inoculation

Littleton done last year

Westerly not ready

SKLT nankings being worked on due to pH high

Stockbridge needs more rating

Lancaster – Orleans included – if no controls available at site and very few left, keep trees going and wait for better selection techniques – e.g. marker gene techniques

We were awarded \$4500 from Manton Grant, very helpful
Went over additional orchard supply needs

Brian to use compost. Kendra suggests trying seeds in the mix first.
Kendra uses Metromix 560 core.

John Emery puts 1.5 inches sterile stuff over seed to cut down weeds for a while.
Preen is something that people use in CT. After seedling is up and after first weeding. Is a preemergent.

Ladders:

Rufin: 13ft

Jamie 15ft

Brian 16ft

John Meiklejohn 14ft

John Emery 18ft

Mike Grames 12 ft (personal)

Pollination candidates:

Carver MA – Rufin?

Sharon MA Mark, Dave, Brian – ladder?

Rhode Island trees -- Yvonne will check

Munson, MA – Lois

Please get a tree locator form in to Kendra!!! She will send Brian after you if you don't!!!

We need to figure out some older trees too. Kendra still needs GPS coordinates, Google Maps can do that for you.

Mudpacking:

Mark Meehl and Dave Lent did a great job on the mudpacking at Granville and Brian's . Seems to work well! Did 15 trees last year. Yield did well.

Extending life of tree for 1-2 years is hope.

Jamie has trees that he'd like done –

Afternoon Board Meeting 1:15pm

Morning plus Brad Smith

Motion: Winter Mtg Minutes approved unanimously

Treasurer's Report – Mike N

Filing at IRS took extra time, login is different now

Revenues doing ok for year
No T-shirts sold this year
Good patch of year-end donations
SCA –aimed donations up past \$6000 , so revenue almost \$14K overall 1st quarter
Several people still plan to donate for SCA
Mike separated out the SCA as an account

We have more fixed assets now
Assets under \$400 don't need to be tracked, over do
Jamie asked whether a donor should give a fridge or the money for a fridge; Michael said the money is easier.

Mass Wildlife was going to get a subscriptions
Lois will CC National TACF re. giving a membership to MassWildlife (Wendy, Elise)
Michael will work on donation

Michael gave backup copy of books to Lois on CD. He also keeps copy in a fire safe in a separate building.

Americorps will be \$7400.

Jamie will be working on Norcross; Kendra would like to be kept in loop

Motion to accept Treasurer Report passed unanimously

Secretary's Report Kathy Desjardin

Membership still around 300, up slightly!
Lenox, MA – Tony – interested in working with us, has 40 acres;

RI student told us about possible new mother trees, Yvonne to follow up

Rufin: Cape person wanted to talk about chestnuts on Cape, Rufin showed him Orleans tree, person looked through burrs. Munson is hot spot.

Nantucket: chestnut – Thad Jones

Motion: Secretary's Report passed unanimously

Communications Report -- Yvonne

National TACF Meeting notes were reviewed

Jared Westbrook: Continue existing program will phase in new techniques as become available, eg early screening, genomics
More than 3 genes!
Not significant strain-line interaction

Meadowview BC3F3s still lots of susceptible genes
Jarod would like us to try Nanking x ? experiments
Also more Nanking lines

Education Committee at National

Database doing well, training soon. Kendra would like to use it soon.

New Website: July training? TACF will host our website, there will be a similar “look and feel” for all of us

Large landowner plantings, coordinated forest test plantings w/Restoration Committee of National – in discussion
E.g. Gettysburg, PA

Each state needs site-specific data on planting techniques, we do some but similar techniques across states could help larger scale

Dr. Caroline Keiffer would like a list of Chapter Research: TACF Restoration Committee

Ridgetop plantings, let seeds go downhill, shelterwood cuts

3Bur initiative: Breeding, Biotech, Biocontrol -- ongoing

SCA Americorps presented to Chapters

Davey Tree as new large partner; good progressive company

Communic approved unanimously

President's Report -- Lois

BC3F3s still good thing to get people involved
Schools a great place for that

A curriculum for schools – TACF Education Committee going to help TACF give teachers \$5k total for programs

Learning Box also has a curriculum in it; MD school-oriented but can be adapted
Our active period – summer – is when kids are out of school, for the most part – is a potential problem.

Science Camps are a possibility – Brad
Clubs can work in the summer

Cheetah discussion tabled

Lois and Brian went to Norcross to talk about Seed Orchard again
MassConn Woods: coalition of 39 towns who are trying to do sustainable development; educate private landowners
Lois & Denis talked at beginning of meeting for 10 minutes – lots of conservation people present

CT is also working to get possible seed orchard in that area south of border.

East Quabbin Land Trust – progressing well

Ecotarium in Worcester: possible area for chestnuts; ready for planting in approx.. 2-3 years
Sugar maples, black walnut, chestnut – good forestry program

TNC: working with Leila Pinchot – interested in chestnut once land ready

Extra seeds: approx.. 10K from Brian to Sara – many additional

Holliston, MA south of Framingham... Grey Curtis contact – people have Nanking chestnuts, seeds from Professor Reisner -- probably from 1 lot – same parent

Agenda Item for Summer: people interested in the Demo trees
We can take names for a lists

Jamie suggested that Grey inquire if we can have our Annual Meeting at their facility, that could be a good way to get our relationship going.

Brian: Norcross has limited time to work on a seed orchard at their facility. We need someone excited on their end. Most of the land was not open, too.
Sanctuary has interest in us talking; Lois is giving programs.

Demo Plantings:

Signage – Kendra will talk to Ruth. Paul W. has ability to make signage from wood with laser device – 20ish for Demos.. We can varnish both sides. Polyurethane.

John Meiklejohn and Lois will come up with language for next month.
Paul and Jamie can help with signage too.

MassWildlife Seed Orchard: Rufin says F&W very cooperative. New director is also quite interested.

Lois wrote an article that went into the F&W magazine

F&W still needs signage – Jamie
Construction on site is delaying this action – still on hold. Sign is ready, needs a mount.

F&W June 4th – event – we are invited to participate

(After SCA)

Orchard Development Report – Brian

Orchard supplies listed in sheet

Motion to approve Brian's orchard supply list up to \$4500 – includes list of materials and compost

Passed unanimously

Two signs also authorized for purchase by Brian Clark

Orange easement will be recorded this week, Brad Smith says
Brian says we also need a definite work crew

Orange would be Graves; might have 6

We have plenty of seeds to also do the East Quabbin Land Trust

Ladder purchase: adjustable – Lois will research, Exec Committee can handle

Demo Tree replacements: Lois and Denis will do Greenhill Park
Wayside Inn – someone had vandalized; heavily traveled

Kendra has a packet for BC3F3 plantings; people need to receive this.
Includes a disclaimer that BC3F3s are not guaranteed resistant
Need to get GPA planned
Site to be inspected

Demo Planting Committee 2016

Kathy, Denis, Lois, Josh, Grey, Yvonne, Jamie
VT/NH has a committee w/rules
We can use GoToMeeting from National, add Kendra

National's Database will record Demo Plantings

BC3F4s – what to do with
Old Sturbridge Village Demo planting is producing lots of seeds now
Could use for Demos also? Might be a little better than BC3F3?

Meadowview has been roguing more and more; Clapper is almost done, Graves still 5 years away

Kendra: High-visibility plantings – Meadowview working on creating a “best possible” cross from certain trees “elite crosses”

Either clonally propagated or other techniques

Interns for 2016
Need a paid weeder...
Need candidates?

Intern job description – Kendra will find;
Can TACF put on their payroll? Kendra will ask
Maine has a direct employee
Contractors set own hours given a specified job?

Brian Clark, Paul, Josh can help supervise?

Trees all need weeding
Replanting
Irrigation
No chainsaws!

We could put this out to the membership

Motion: We authorize up to \$3000 for the executive committee to hire a contractor (s) to do maintenance in our orchards.

Passed unanimously

Sterling, MA orchard needs sprouts cut again

Owner might like help; Kendra will contact him. Then Jamie and John Meiklejohn can work on trees.

Paul made a great documents with seed orchard info for training SCA people

Document could also be used for an intern, ask Paul

Motion to adjourn passed unanimously 4:05pm