

The Quarterly Board Meeting of TACF-MA was held on 04-26-04 at the Mass Electric Building in Northboro, MA

Board Members Present: Susan Cormier, Kathy Desjardin, John Emery, Yvonne Federowicz, Gary Jacob, Mike Meixsell, Anne Myers, Mike Novack, Brad Smith, Dave Uguccioni, Rufin Van Bossuyt and Charlotte Zampini

Board Members Absent: Sandy Gessford, Guy Shepard, Jim Garland, Rich Hoffman and Frank Howard.

Guests Attending: Gerry Cormier, Jamie Donalds, Jim Coull, John Pauplis, John Howard, Tom Warhol.

The Board Meeting came to order by Susan Cormier at 1:15 PM (Minutes by Gerry Cormier)

It was moved by Charlotte Zampini and seconded by Mike Meixsell that the minutes of the previous meeting be accepted. The vote was unanimous (12 - 0)

Susan Cormier noted the hiring of Tom Warhol as field operations manager.

Susan Cormier also noted that Sandy Gessford is recovering from surgery, Guy Shepard is taking care of his mother who has had a heart attack and Rich Hoffman had to leave after Tree Resource Meeting.

Susan read an article on Ellsworth Barnard who passed away recently.

Susan read portions of the January minutes to highlight action items.

Susan reported on membership. There are currently 357 members.

Anne Myers presented Treasurer's report. Treasurer's Report is attached as Schedule A. The Chapter's financial situation is good in terms of this season's expenditures. Anne Myers would like the Board to approve the following expenditures; a specialized GPS Monitor for Tom Warhol in the amount of \$150-180, an incremental borer in the amount of \$150-\$180, cell phone service and fuel expenses, totaling approximately \$400.

It was moved by Anne Myers and seconded by Mike Novack that the board fund the above mentioned items plus miscellaneous expenses up to a total of \$1,000 for use by Tom Warhol, our field operations manager. Discussion followed. The vote was unanimous (12 - 0).

The Board discussed the hiring of Tom Warhol as field operations manager and his duties for June and July.

The Board discussed the five year report to the IRS for the organization.

Anne Myers recommended that the chapter purchase a relatively high-end laptop personal computer for use by the chapter for maintaining records and driving the power point presentations/projector. The total cost including software will run about \$2,000. Discussion followed.

Anne Myers moved and Gary Jacob seconded that we authorize up to \$2,200 to be spent on the acquisition of a Dell laptop computer plus accessories to be purchased by a committee of Anne Myers, Charlotte Zampini, Brad Smith and Yvonne Federowicz. Discussion followed. Motion approved unanimously (12 - 0).

Susan Cormier reported on discussion items at the national Board and cabinet meetings that occurred last week.

Annual Reporting at National is consistently late by approximately four months. National has voted to demand better performance from its accounting firm. This should help in reporting at the Chapter level. National is pushing to have the National Forest Service pursue the study of forest biotechnology.

Susan Cormier reported on efforts to advocate support for maintaining the \$250,000 annual budget item in the Forestry budget.

At the national meeting, a group discussed the continued funding for a northern chapter coordinator beyond 12/31/2004 for Sara Fitzsimmons, currently based at Penn State.

Peabody Energy Company will be collaborating with TACF on coal mine site reclamation.

Prospective provisional chapters are; – Alabama, Georgia, Ohio, Maryland and New Jersey

Anne Myers suggested that we review Fred Hebard's ten year plan with regard to the items in his plan for Chapters that we (MA) will buy into and/or plan for.

The Chapter would like specific recommendations with regard to what tasks the Regional Coordinator would accomplish for our Chapter for the cost to be funded by our Chapter.

Anne Myers would like to have a pollination coordination meeting around June 13.

The next quarterly board meeting has been tentatively scheduled for July 25. The July meeting may not include the tree resource portion.

Susan opened discussion with regard to our Chapter Annual Meeting with regard to the site and to a keynote speaker. Susan asked for input from the Board on both issues. John Pauplis suggested that we contact the Assabet Conservation Association (Weir Hill) in Sudbury. Charlotte Zampini suggested Framingham State. Brad Smith suggested Harvard Forest. Sunday seems to be the preferable day over Saturday. As to dates, the 7th of November is the preferred date. Anne Myers suggested Phil Rutter as a speaker. Susan encouraged additional input for speakers. The format from last year was good. Yvonne Federowicz suggested a secondary speaker on a simple topic.

Susan Cormier initiated discussion of a presentation idea by Carol Harley with regard to a partnership between TACFMA and Greener Watts New England. Yvonne will look into the firm. The Board moved to decline participation in this venture at this time.

Anne Myers moved and Charlotte Zampini seconded a motion to decline the partnership at this time. The vote was unanimous (12 – 0).

Gerry Cormier handed out a document suggested for inclusion in Chapter procedures (attached as Schedule B) with regard to voting procedures. Board members can read and offer suggestions. Gerry indicated that he will clarify the absentee voting part to clarify absentee vs. proxy, which is not allowed. The document as updated by suggestions will be incorporated as of the next meeting into chapter procedures.

Gary Jacob described his marketing process where he uses TACF materials relating to his business.

Dave Uguccioni described the progress of his orchard in Palmer.

Gary Jacob discussed his progress in setting up his orchard in Medway.

Jamie Donalds described his GPS Treasure Hunt as a tool for raising awareness of the American chestnut restoration and to encourage users to report findings of Mother Trees.

Gary Jacob moved and Mike Meixsell seconded a motion to adjourn at 3:53 PM. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously (12 – 0).

Respectfully submitted

Gerry Cormier