

MATACF Board Meeting 1/14/06 1:10 p.m.

Board Members Present: Brad Smith, Kathy Desjardin, David Ugucioni, Mike Meixsell, Mike Novack, Jamie Donalds, Charlotte Zampini, Guy Shepard, Rufin Van Bossuyt, Denis Melican, Lois Breault-Melican, Jim Garland, Yvonne Federowicz, Frank Howard, John Mirick, John Emery

Others Present: Scott Benoit, Bossuyt, Michael Smolcek, Marty Jessel, others left early (were present in morning)

I.) Lingering Filing Issues

Treasurer's Report Mike N.

Full statements were presented to board members.

When people give receipts to Mike (credit card etc.) please give Mike the date, what it was for, who you are along with it

Budgeting for next year: income this year was a little over \$12K

First few years, we weren't using as much on orchards – we have a few more orchards to put in now but not a lot. So we do seem to have enough built up in reserve. For selection/seed orchards, again we will need large amounts of materials and more money. Mike suggests we experiment now so we will have good techniques for our larger seed orchards. Cheap will be more important then.

Separate donations from Board Members vs. others. The way the form that we have to have this spring for our Nonprofit status looks re. this, is not clearly worded. "Public donation" should be 1/3 of our receipts. About half our support is indirect public. We have to supply records and may not have enough data. Five years of data needed.

May need to have accountant look at this – experienced in 501-C-3 work.

John Mirick – we need to pay someone to have this done well, people won't donate as much if not tax-deductible. Need an accountant. May be \$3-5K.

Kathy: Mr. Peterson helped us get the 501-C-3 started initially.

Dave U. could ask people at work with tax knowledge.

John Mirick could also find a suitable person and get back to us.

1099 forms – Brad will find one and mail it to Mike N. Also needs booklet, and all materials for form PC.

John M.: state has different filing requirements than fed does; different thresholds of finances. Fed. Gov't doesn't want people setting up private charities that benefit themselves.

Mike M.: Mike and the Cormiers did go to an accountant upon first setting up chapter 5 years go.. Anne then took it over.

John M. – that would be person to go to.

Jim Philbin is accountant. Worked pro bono.

John M. – better to go to an educated expert rather than try to decode all the “ands vs. ors”.

First – will try Jim Philbin – Mike M. will contact him, we will be willing to pay. One-time expense. We will need to know what data to get.

501-C-3 due in March. We have never prepared Schedule A. Is this a problem?

Need to have accountant help us fill out these forms, then help us set up so non-professional can do it. DON'T ask them all the piecemeal questions. We will probably miss things if we do it piecemeal.

Getting an accountant: Mike M. will try for Jim Philbin, then John Mirick will try for one, then Brad/Kathy will contact National.

Senior Memberships: Unclear whether these exist. MA vs. national differences. Need to contact National. (Kathy)

Motion: Rufin – to empower the Executive Committee to hire an accountant to solve the 501-C-3 difficulties, spending up to \$5K. Jamie seconded. One against, all others for.

John M.: accountant would need different info from the P&L statement Mike M. gave.

Yvonne – note to self – set Mike M.'s FTP account up. Possibly John Mirick's. Get Bio forms from Brad and put on website. Change Kathy's email.

II.) Charter & Bylaws

Mike M. – when preparing Bylaws, were careful to follow what was needed by Federal and State law. However, we never got back to a lot of this.

There are inconsistencies in the Bylaws that make it confusing: example – increasing the number of Directors. One place says at Annual Meeting, other place says at a meeting. Could also put in references to which filings need to be submitted when.

Some portions were never reviewed for errors or inconsistencies.

Mike M. volunteered to look carefully at Bylaws for inconsistencies.

John M.: a lot of these things should only be done at an Annual Meeting. Suggests:

Email and redlining copies.

Then approve at next Annual Meeting.

Then submit to IRS and State. See if it is simple to change “official” Bylaws with IRS and State.

Don't want lots of separate documents. Just want “Amended Bylaws”.

If money has been donated for charitable purposes, Gov't doesn't want it used for non-charitables (J.M.)

John M. will be happy to work on the list of suggestions and then work on a draft.

III.) Seedlings Issue – MA Chapter Newsletter

Seedlings' new issue is underway. People agreed that putting Directors' names and email on the Seedlings would be ok.

IV.) Publicity

Need a brochure for our chapter; getting videos on website would be good.

TV – Chronicle

Brad will work on brochures after Seedlings

Need press releases sent to local newspapers too

Guy: could we use a college communication arts place to use us as an example to develop brochures?

Kathy: local high school has wanted a possible project – Charlotte: teacher might do, run a module on chestnut, we could provide seedlings, establish trees on school property

Frank H.: Maryland Chapter would be good resource for them.

Brad & Rufin are doing a presentation at Upton next week.

Yvonne doing one at RI Natural History Survey in March.

Please email Yvonne about your presentations for inclusion on the Web Site.

Steeplechase by Jane Langdon. New book, refers to chestnut. Jane may do some writing for us; lives in Lincoln, MA.

V.) Next Quarterly Meeting

April 2nd, 2006 provided building is accessible. Will be good for passing around nuts. Jamie not planning to give nuts for F1s – germination rates too low.

VI.) Next Year's Annual Meeting

Brad: thank you, everyone, for all your work on the Annual Meeting. We had good attendance, but how do we get more? There were people there who were very interested and engaged.

Guy: could have an orchard tour meeting. Would need to seat 50-100. Tower Hill a possibility. Ashfield-Holly orchards have Grange halls nearby.

Have usually done it after harvest. However, our harvests may be smaller now.

Brad – nice to have it after the National so we can give reports on National. Want to set a firm date by July meeting.

Frank – partnering with a group worked very nicely last time.

Lois – press releases need to be ready well beforehand.

VII.) The Tale of the “Chestnutting” Photo

Winslow Homer did a lot of woodcut prints before his painting. "Chestnutting" from Every Saturday.

VIII.) Web Site Changes

Yvonne showed some changes in the web site organization. These are currently under <http://masschestnut.org/NEW/> but within approx. 1 month will replace the old website. Brad suggested the changes be made and people then be asked for comments. Yvonne is hoping people will give constructive feedback, in advance, as well.

IX.) Power Point Presentation demonstration

The older NOFA presentation and the newer presentation Brad adapted from Paul Cisco's ppt were both demoed, along with basic operation of the laptop-projector combination. These will both be up on the web site.

X.) Other Issues

Voies may have large population changes from year to year. Some years large percentages of grass seed are eaten by them.

Meeting adjourned 3:53 p.m.

Draft minutes submitted by Y.F.