

In Attendance	Board Members: Yvonne Federowicz (PRES) Mike Novack (TREAS) Kathy Desjardin (SEC), John Emery, John Meiklejohn, Gary Jacob, Brian Clark, Mike Miexsell, Brad Smith, Denis Melican, Roy Najecki, John Meiklejohn, Guy Shepard, Charlotte Zampini, Others: Mike Labossiere, Brian Bastarache, Josh Soojian, Randy Prostack
11:00	Yvonne Federoritz gavels meeting to order the Growers Meeting.
Reimbursement for Clearing Land in Granville	John Meiklejohn got \$500 for meadow clearing paid and approved by exec. committee Still more to do : 3/4 left to clear for full seed orchard. Ready for spring experimentation nuts. Motion to approve of funds approved by exec. committee for land clearing; Passed Unanimously
Conservation Restriction for Granville Orchard	JMeikl explained conservation restriction for his property via map and how to create access road with unencumbered future use by TACF. After much discussion, a path which already incorporates a stone wall cut was agreed upon. John Mirick should look at what guarantees access no matter what in future. JMeikl will talk to NEF about how area within restriction could be enlarged. NEF will use existing land survey but resurvey bounded conservatioin area only. Water rights were discussed to ensure access even if JMeikl does not own his house (the source of the water for the orchard). JMeikl is looking for grant money for further readying of land. Controls will be tried this spring. Re: Grants, Mass Natural Resource Conservation Service has not been too helpful and does not seem to understand our mission. Can anyone meet with them to educate them on our TACF goals? Office is in Hadley. Additional work day would be needed in the spring or summer. Possible Board/ Work meeting this Summer was mentioned by Brad Smith .
Controls in Seed Orchards	We should plan for this as Fred Hebard now thinks additional comparisons will be helpful even in the seed orchard.
Notification of Board Meetings	Gary Jacob would like a separate invitation to quarterly board meetings separate from the list serve. He has found it difficult so sort through the volume of emails due to his schedule and has missed meetings because he couldn't sort his mail in time.
Latest MA & RI Presentation	GJ asked if there was a "latest version" of our chapter presentation. BS said yes and he will post his latest version and "chestnut for dummies" on the chapter server. YF also has an updated version she has been using for her RI presentations. Lois Breault-Melican also has one.
Greenhouse Space	Brian Bastarache (our generous host) has greenhouse space at the school (Bristol Aggie) he can lend to us for starting and keepings seedlings. He Gave us a tour of the beautiful greenhouse after the meeting. He is willing to devote a large table or two to our needs. Has students to help with labor.
Inoculation Planning	Inoculation sites for the spring; Medway/Granville /Moore /Hawley
New Wrinkle, Oops.	News Flash: Shipping fungus is against law. Oops. Permits will now be needed for receiving fungal plates. Reporting to USDA required within 7 days about any inoculation. Need to burn trees after roguing. Can't chip (inoculum load doubles). This causes many new problems for us to get burning permits or to remove properly thousands of trees. Will add to cost to bring refuse to be burned. Biomass plants might take (Mt Wachusett Community College) uses/runs on chipped material. Charlotte could get a lab permit for Mass. to grow/keep plates of fungus.

Possible Spring Pollinations	Mother tree pollinations (Brian Clark) tree and Fitchburg (Jamie Donald) with NANKING John Emery has some trees in Wayland & Weston.
Phytopthera Update	Yay! seems to be controlled by one gene. Some of our trees have already been found to be resistant by Joe Janes from the Carolinas chapter.
Glochester RI Update	RN: Glocester Orchard trees cut down around periphery, irrigation will be run next spring. All seedlings in ground. (GRAVES source) no deer protection yet CZ suggests bitrex until taller.
Nanking Nuts	New spots for NANKING nuts 400 needed: JE has room at Wayland to reuse. Fall River and Holley (BC says has room) are possibilities.
Everyone wants BC3F3s	Sudbury Valley, Walden Woods, Arnold Arboretum (KG) has contacted, WORCESTER garden club (hard to contact) should get in on chestnut as ALHB replacements. Most new nuts committed to other projects already. KG will have special stash. National allocations coming out soon. Rufin Van Bossuyt has our chapter stash. Need to design a new sign for demos (smaller). Demos should not be too close to existing orchard. 1/2 mile minimum to avoid unwanted pollen contamination. Individuals who want nuts should be members!
Fall River Watuppa Reservation Proposal	Mike Labossiere from Watuppa Reservation (owned and managed by the City of Fall River) is interested in cooperating with TACF. They already have an Atlantic White Cedar restoration project at the reservation. Watuppa was a Fall River farmstead which the city has taken over. Existing Chinese chestnut in woods there. Could be spot for future for NANKING 2012 or mutt nuts for forest trials. 1/2 to 3/4 acre after spring thaw can be readied for Nanking bc3 and seed orchard possibility in future! Mutt nuts would be a good test. They collaborate with Trustees of Reservations. Later in meeting we found out that BB could easily take his Bristol Aggie students there to help in maintenance and recording of the new orchard or forest experiments.
UMass Proposal by Randy Prostack	UMass project research planting Randy Prostack RP brought up the "deeded lease" question with his dean. Long term protection relies on how long players (faculty) are there (at the University). Weed management angle might work. A detailed proposal on yellow sheets was distributed to all, see it here https://files.me.com/schoolmastersmith/34uuc1 . Very specific treatment and experimental plans offered. Overhead is 56% at university so you ask for 156 to get 100 of any grant however there are ways to tweak a grant so this can be avoided (to request more money than needed because of "cut"). Solid sod experiments, deer fencing would be included for the test plot. Some "25b exempt" chemicals go state by state with respect to their approval in consideration of their level of control and use. Chapter would give a "unrestricted gift" so no overhead would be taken and put in a separate account. He has some discretionary money to bluster grant. "liners = container cone seedlings". Pathologist for UMass might work on project too. Mychorrizae might also enter into the study. Has nursery to grow nuts into "liners". Motion to support the UMass project was moved & seconded & approved by a unanimous vote. This was made more formally in the afternoon meeting. Randy's email will be added to list orchard list.
1:20 pm	YF gavels morning meeting to a close.

1:54 pm	YF begins afternoon board meeting
Approval of Previous Minutes	Passed unanimously with one abstention.
Board approval of funding for land clearing at Granville	Passed Unanimously.
Support of Randy Prostek's UMass Research Proposal	The Board approved unanimously with the following suggestion; that approximate 50 % of the research be organic farming acceptable and of non tillage method.
Bristol County Agricultural High School Participation	Brian Bestarache (BCAHS) explained that his students want to do field experiments. An area of red pines dead on hill might offer a site to plant chestnut. The Wood Farm could also be a place for forest for planting. He has experience with data loggers ("hobo's") which could help us gather and compare climate and growing data electronically. Deer pressure is present; could test prevention devices. Arborists will cut down the dead red pines soon to clear area. A good site for possible Reforestation Experimentation. Some Greenhouse space is available for our use. BCAHS students could lend help to any Fall River (Watuppa) site and grow seedlings for them. Could start growing seedlings now. Benches build 6 (4 x 2). We will communicate with BB about our needs for growing seedlings when we are more sure about their allocation this spring. BB has labor available for this summer.
Fall River Connection to BCAHS	Watuppa's labor force increases during the summer when BCAHS's dries up. Having both institutions share labor or a Watuppa project makes a lot of sense. It is close enough for BB to bring his students there frequently. Fall River has some sections cut and ready to go for this spring. KG mentioned that canopy opening data could be collected by these hobos. She would like to see various forest planting methods tried with this kind of data collection.
Charlotte's Continuing Agrifos and Pentrabark Experiments.	CZ :Last year 60 % reduction in cankers was followed by this year's 25% reduction. Wet Spring and dry Summer probably to blame. Pentrabark has effect alone. Agrifos also seems to works alone. Looked at older trees respayed: treated trees had better survival. (Rufin's in Whittensville). 80 trees. Research will continue perhaps MN on upper goose pond in the woods this summer.
Smith College Field Station	KG : Smith College Field Station is creating an outdoor classroom. They want to start with Americans to test gap size in the establishment of Chestnut. Students eventually would use bc3f3s. They propose a Moisture gradient experiment- upland field to stream experiment with clear swaths; plant along gradient to see what is too wet for Chestnut (bc3f3). Mutt nuts might be better. Fall 2011 they want to try some fall planting of nuts. Paul Wetzel will come to restoration meeting in New Hampshire. A vote to support the Smith College proposal was unanimously approved.
Treasurer's Report	MN : No annual meeting cost because printing invitation (1300 pieces mailed) was separated out as postage. Report was unanimously approved.

Secretary's Report	Kathy Desjardin: 328 current members Victor Gearson wanted pictures of American Chestnut woodgrain. Bradford Minor Telegram & Gazette article (Denis & Lois) Globe article will come out next week in the West Weekly. Ralph Baker has possible mother tree in Fitchburg. Sample looks American.
Data Base Update	KG: Data base bid were very expensive, California firm seems to be top choice. Expensive but necessary. Grant for first round of development in place. Need to track fall harvest and data numbers soon.
Honorary Plaque Update	Presentation plaque made to National Grid and Nelson Calkins at birthday party. Summer presentation to Jim Garland and Fank Howard planned at Summer Quarterly Board Meeting. Kathy has laser engraver in Mendon (\$25 per plaque)
Revisit to John Miclejohn's Seed Orchard in Granville.	JMeikl is making a list of requirements for the Granville seed orchard for JMir to work into the agreement. Easement will be held by NEF as a land trust in a conservation restriction. Additions to list of bullet points mentioned: Add a storage shed Right to inoculate Right to burn Allow yourself to amend the easement through procedure Right to remove trees Three lawyers will eventually check the document. Will have to be approved by land trust, town and commonwealth.
Summer Interns	CZ has 2 students who might want to work on chestnut this summer. \$1924 available left. Jess Wells could help with inoculations. Last year Adam was big help.
Mike Novak's Presentation on Method to Reuse Spots in Plots to Minimize Space Needed for Seed Orchards.	MN presentation on orchard plan: Because you can't tell exactly whether a tree is a "5 or 6" his method would trade time for space. Our trees are small crops for a while. We can only test by inoculation so too many will test similarly because our current ratings system and the significant variation in cancers. He assumed 25 lines for GRAVES and CLAPPER in Mass. & R.I. for his scheme. Test plot of 150 30 x 30 using 6 ft separation with 33 trees per acre After one inoculation cycle reuse for second and third planting spot with extra space left over. Enough cells left over to use spot three times. Final density set up for seed production, MN says it would be easier to plant out the nuts of these trees because be 50% will be pure resistant, instead 1 out of 164. Easier to test the offspring than parents. Next presentation will show how this makes selection easier. KG (and Sara Fitzsimmon) concern about danger of making a complicated process more confusing for volunteers. Penn chapter seed orchards have any individual land owners who have single blocks. Testing of seed plots still developing as Fred is now delaying EP155 until trees are larger. This kind of discussion should continue.
Regional Restoration Meeting	Just one of three "track meeting" meetings. Portsmouth NH, facilitator will be on hand. Brainstorming session. These meetings will form a new restoration plan to modify the initial Rex Mann drafted plan can be found on the TACF website. The Three "Tracks" Bryan Burhans has organized with chair: Business Development (Carolyn Hill) Ecology and restoration, reintroduction (Brian McCarthy) Breeding and Testing (Kim Steiner)
4:33	Meeting adjourned. Next meeting April 9th, 2011 location to be announced.