

January 28, 2012

Wachusett Meadow Wildlife Sanctuary

Meeting began at 11:00 am and ended at 12:53 pm.

ATTENDEES	<p>Yvonne Federowicz, President; Lois Melican, Vice President; Mike Novak, Treasurer, Kathy Desjardins, Secretary</p> <p><u>Board Members:</u> Denis Melican, Jamie Donald, John Mirick, Gary Jacobs, Rich Hoffman, Brian Clark, Brad Smith, Charlotte Zampini, Guy Shepard.</p> <p><u>Other Attendees:</u> Bruce Spencer, former board member; Cindy Dunn, Wachusett Meadow staff; Lauren Todd & Steve Stimpson, new members</p>
DEMONSTRATION PLANTINGS	<p>Yvonne provided an excel spreadsheet with names of potential partners:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute – a scientist working there is interested, this contact came from National;2. Westerly RI – at least 2 trees for them3. Gilbert Stewart – we have nuts for here4. Greater Worcester Land Trust – who work with many other land trusts including the Common Ground Land Trust (Spencer/Leicester) is in the process of purchasing the Sibley/Warner farm in Spencer, which has great land in Spencer right on Rte 9, a busy highway, that would be a great place for chestnuts. Denis will follow up on this. <p>We had been looking at 3 trees per site, however Charlotte stated, and everyone agreed that 5 nuts per planting would be better. National said that 1/3 of the B3F3 nuts are showing very good resistance, 1/3 have moderate resistance and 1/3 are not doing that well.</p> <p>It was also stated that these types of plantings are called just that “plantings” not orchards.</p> <p>Yvonne suggested a committee for this list so that we do not take up too much meeting time. John Mirick asked what would be the charge of this committee? To get sites ready? If 5 or 6 nuts are going to be used, when will this be done? Kathy D said Rufin has B3F3s available. Mike Novak stated that with 5 nuts we’ll most likely have at least 50% success. It’s not that the others will not survive, they just will not be FULLY resistant. There is an 80% chance that 2 out of 5 will be resistant.</p> <p>Kathy and Denis will work on this, with Rufin as head, if he agrees.</p> <p>Jamie asked about people’s expectation of these trees, and it was noted that National would replace these trees if they do not survive. Gary suggested that we look closer at the sites before planting to make sure they are acceptable and that the trees are planted where they were targeted for.</p> <p>The demonstration seeds are not from local trees, so we need to be careful where we plant them. We need to keep reminding people that</p>

	<p>there is only a 33% chance that these will be resistant and nutt nuts have an even lower chance of surviving.</p> <p>We have a limited number of these nuts and Yvonne F agreed that these are limited because they are not the product of our orchards. We have a 94% hybrid and we need to select from each generation and make sure these Chinese resistance genes are carried through. At the end we use local product to make sure we have diversity. A lot of what we do is selections.</p> <p>Bruce S got 5 nuts from Rufin and met the objective of planting them in the forest. It was stated that the main goal with these seeds is not forest test planting, we have nutt nuts for that, and as these are not local product we don't really care how well they do in the forest. Mike N said other nuts will be available that are specifically set aside for this purpose. There may be a pool for experimentation. The seeds we are using are nuts that members donated for this. Demo plantings are a good use for this seed</p>
<p>SEED ORCHARD/DEMONSTRATION ORCHARD/PLANTING</p>	<p>Steve Stipmson had a question about the difference between a demonstration orchard and a seed orchard. He and his wife Lauren Todd are landscape architects who live in Princeton and are currently growing trees and woody shrubs on their property. They have been working with Kendra about how they could become more active in the MA/RI Chapter by helping us to grow trees. They are very interested in the science aspect and working with us.</p> <p>Army Corps of Engineer (ACE) sites in Oxford and Uxbridge would be good sites, as they are a committed partner. Someone on National is also associated with the ACE and they have an MOU that covers some of the basics. Some issues are if you plant on their land they own the trees and National has an agreement that we own the progeny of these. These details need to be worked out in writing. Maybe we can get examples from the PA member. In addition to the right to the nuts, we may want to make sure we can do selections on these trees. John Mirick will look at this agreement. This may add some time to this process. Jamie D said the PA agreement is only a 5 year agreement and John M said that there is always a risk with any land and the government. The best scenario is like Meiklejohn's seed orchard agreement, where the chapter will have charge of the orchard after he is gone. The risk with a government agency is that they will sell the land and the new owner may have a different use for it. Charlotte Z asked if the government had another use for the land, would we still own the trees. The MOU wording would be "chestnut material" and if we dig it up and use the root ball, we could essentially use the material again.</p> <p>Army Corps of Engineers main MOU agreement has some language that contradicts with the germplasm agreement. Possibly we could use this document as a model for our agreement with them. It's a worthwhile tradeoff in terms of the resources they bring to the table.</p>

	<p>Charlotte Z She described seed orchards as needing space for about 200 – 300 trees and seed orchards with higher density plantings of about 200 – 300 trees very densely planted while demonstration orchards are smalls planting of less trees for public viewing. There is at least a 30 year minimum commitment for seed orchards as compared to the 10 – 15 year time span for a research orchard. Management is also different at these 2 types of orchards.</p>
<p>DEMONSTRATION PLANTINGS</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Gary J said Medway could be expanded. 2. Denis talked about expanding partnerships with long standing partners. We have plenty of offers from different groups and organizations, many of whom we have spoken to over the years. The newly formed committee could work on this aspect, along with the germplasm agreements now. Brian suggested turning turn this over to the committee to handle. 3. Jamie suggested always giving people 5 seedlings, which would raise the odds that at least 2 will survive. He also indicated it's a great idea to have a committee but there should be one person who will be in charge. Charlotte Z suggested that Rufin should be this contact person as he has been involved in this type of situation many times before and is the most knowledgeable about selecting a good site. Kathy will be vice chair of this committee, and give a report at the next meeting. 4. It was suggested that the CRITERIA for each site meet be: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) visibility 2) good soil/adequate conditions 3) someone dedicated to performing basic cultural practices and in general, tending to the trees. <p>This Committee is charged with looking at each site and offering suggestions on why they would be good.</p>
<p>SEED ORCHARD AND PLANTING</p>	<p>Charlotte Z suggested that we'll need both Clapper and Graves seed orchards, with with 5 Clapper orchards that will be producing. Moore State Park is the only orchard left that needs to have the final selection done. Out of six orchards we have about 15 lines.</p> <p>John Emery did controlled pollination and he has several hundred nuts. John Meiklejohn would like a Graves seed orchard so that he can add some of his own seeds.</p> <p>Weston and Princeton are ready as are Littleton and Jamie's.</p> <p>The South Kingstown orchard will also be ready. These can be left in pots for one year, but this is not the ideal.</p> <p>South Kingstown has a deer fence and could do irrigation pretty quickly, the soil is good, it was a pasture so will need amended soil. Yvonne thinks South Kingstown will be ready and we'll only need 150 nuts for each line – we have about 1000. She doesn't know if they are planting one block or two and Charlotte Z suggested that we ask them to do 2. Each block would have 150 trees from each line – which means 2 times 7 times 250. This year we'll probably planting about 1000 nuts. If we plant these as seedlings, we will lose approx 20%.</p>

	<p>Mike N has over 80 acres available but not cleared. Jamie has many people who would be interested, but the timeframe to fill a block will happen only as the seeds become available. There will probably be plantings in each seed orchard for the next 5 years. It's important to have orchard managers at these sites.</p> <p>Nanking Line – The Trustees of Reservations – who will be available here for a long term commitment? There is no irrigation there, maybe we need to go there and visit. We have 9 lines of Nanking, our goal would be 10 lines.</p> <p>Brian assumed that the lines from Ashville and Conway would be combined because of the elevation for a seed orchard in Hawley.</p> <p>Granville will need to be started, and there are no nuts for them right now and none selected yet. We will have more selections in June.</p> <p>It will be important to keep the different sources of resistance apart until we know more about the sources of resistance.</p>
SUMMER ROGUING PREPARATIONS	<p>We could use an intern for this, although an intern cannot use a chain saw, only hand saws. Interns cannot use chain saws as they are not certified. If a board member brings a chain saw and wants to take a tree down – that's OK. The material would then have to be moved into a burn pile. Towns work differently about burning rules. Charlotte Z asked why don't we apply for a grant for someone certified with a chain saw to do this work? Kathy knows someone who is a forestry major who is interested in volunteering.</p> <p>Gary J asked about burying the trees rather than burning. Can we chip and bury? Can we just cover the pile with something? Spores are viable for 6 months on dead wood, and the idea is to prevent the spread of the blight spores. It's a huge job to remove and burn and it may be easier to chip. Legally we need to burn or chip and burn and burying is the last option. Bruce thought this was not a difficult task as hardwood burns easily. Open burning starts Jan 15. Agricultural burning covers trees however zoning comes into play. Charlotte Z would like more info on how National deals with this. Can we get each person who has an orchard to find out the burning permit issues in their town? Let's run this by Kendra or Bryan to see what other chapters do about this.</p>
MEETING ADJOURNED AT 12:45	

<p>Afternoon meeting came to order at 1:45 pm MEMBERS PRESENT</p>	<p>Yvonne Federowicz, President; Lois Melican, Vice President; Mike Novak, Treasurer, Kathy Desjardins, Secretary</p> <p>Board Members: Denis Melican, Jamie Donald, John Mirick, Gary Jacobs, Rich Hoffman, Brian Clark, Brad Smith, Charlotte Zampini, Guy Shepard, Elizabeth Hammond, John Emery.</p>
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TREASURER'S REPORT	<p>Balance sheets, financial statements and operating budget was passed out. Problems confirming bank balances has been solved and Kathy was able to go to the bank and obtain this information. We have still not received money from National for the Restoration Branch Event. The Mighty Giant books that we purchased to sell and donate must be reported to Mike. Please email him on this.</p> <p>If we don't expend the entire amount of a grant, we'll carry the rest for next year.</p> <p>Motion was made and passed to accept the Treasurer's Report.</p>
SECRETARY'S REPPORT	<p>Kathy went to the bank to ask for financial statements, and her numbers match Mike's treasurer's report. All officers can be certified signers on this account, although this is probably not necessary. It's probably best to have only one signer for the organization, although the customer ID and pin is available to all officers. Kathy has created an updated list of board members, with addresses, phone numbers and emails.</p> <p>MEMBERSHIP is at 316 as of December 2011. This is a slight upward tick. As contacts come in Kathy forwards these on to appropriate people. There was a request for postings of where help is needed and Charlotte Z suggested that we keep a list of volunteers and forward this on as orchard tasks become available. Yvonne says National may be able to help with this. If anyone has a need, Kathy will target these people. Treasurer's report was accepted.</p>
CHAIN SAW TRAINING	<p>There is a chain saw certification program available, but we still should not be using non Board members to do any chain saw work due to liability that could fall on board members. An example is the Delasandro property that was going to be rogued out in Sterling. Mr. Delasandro's insurance man wanted a rider before he would allow people on the land to remove the trees.</p> <p>One possibility would be getting back to him and asking him about using hand saws without insurance. If we were to hire someone it could cost 2 or 3 thousand dollars to to remove these trees.</p> <p>Guy suggested going to a tree company and telling them this is a non-profit and asking if they would they do the work in return for some publicity. This is a tax write off for any tree organizations, and most do this work occasionally. Often there are tree companies in towns and maybe they would be interested if they got publicity. There would also be good press coverage for TACF.</p>
SEED ORCHARDS, LEASE AGREEMENTS AND EASEMENTS	<p>The Granville agreement is an easement, which is different from a lease, which is a contract. An easement is a onetime action that is recorded at Registry of Deeds setting forth what the parties can do. An easement with a list of things we can do is best for us. An easement can have a limit, as with John Meiklejohn, it will probably be for 30 years.</p> <p>The S. Kingstown agreement needs to be worked on before we plant this spring. John M has MOU for a breeding orchard, and we can build on that. He will do an email to Yvonne with the verbiage.</p>
DEMONSTRATION PLANTINGS	<p>The Lewandowskis have indicated 3 places that would be available for planting. Yvonne asked if they were on the list, Elizabeth will add them to</p>

	<p>the list. It was suggested that a board member look at these sites. Also, do they have any insurance?</p> <p>Wachusett Meadow would be a great place for a demonstration planting, but they are not ready for a seed orchard at this time. These need manpower and a commitment to take care of them over the long term. Mass Audubon is a good partner if the respect that if one sanctuary has an orchard, it's possible that others in the state may also want to join in with some type of chestnut planting of their own. If we can provide the support, they can provide the land. We have signs already paid for and the first 2 panels will work for anywhere. National has a new sign template which we should evaluate, this may help this process along.</p> <p>In Rhode Island - of the 11 Yvonne has left, 3 could go to Gilbert Stewart, 3 for the Westerly Wilcox Park, 3 for the Roger Williams Park food forest, (we could give them more and promote chestnut harvest, as they are interested in chestnuts as a sustainable food source) Revive the Roots in Smithfield, with a historic farmhouse and sustainable gardens, another group associated with URI.</p> <p>As far as planting layouts, 20 foot spacing would work, as they may not all make it. A 30 foot circle would easily fit 5 trees, and be more like forestry spacing.</p> <p>There are significant differences in the lines of trees that we have to offer, with some better than others. The ones that are in pots are easier to judge than those planted directly in the ground. Trees are also considerably different depending on where they are planted. When potting up, we know that at least 20% will get culled out right at the beginning. We'd like to ask Rufin for nuts for the Wood's Hole planting.</p>
DEMO COMMITTEE	<p>Rich Giordano at OSV wants more trees and they should probably have at least 5 there.</p> <p>Salem Cemetery would like demo in their cemetery.</p> <p>Rufin suggested the Trustees property at Cormier woods, who have a chestnut barn built in 1700s and would be a great place for demo plantings. Also the Daniels Farmstead in Uxbridge would like to have chestnut planted there.</p> <p>The demo planting list will be prioritized by the committee</p>
2011 IRRIGATION COSTS	<p>This went over and we will need to apply again this year, probably for more money.</p>
GRANT REQUESTS	<p>Granville may need up to \$3000</p> <p>A tractor request is put in by South Kingston is actually a mower. Brian Clark said that this is a great mower that he uses in his orchards. Jamie D said possibly we could give them \$1000 for this. Charlotte Z said that if they're happy with ½ we should put this request in, as this is what we've</p>

	<p>spent on other orchard prep.</p> <p>South Kingstown land trust put in \$3500 and the deer fence for USACE is \$2000 and fertilizer \$1000. Maybe we should call this seed orchard prep and give example of the kinds of things it can be used for. Kendra only needs numbers. Would the <u>Manton Foundation Grant</u> cover roguing? It was asked if they just OK the whole grant or do they pick and choose the items on it? Kendra said they just need a total and do not need a list of what it is for.</p> <p>Maybe if we get \$10,000, we can decide in the spring where the money will go. The more we can cover with the grant, the better off we'll be.</p> <p>The entire amount will be listed as:</p> <p>Irrigation Granville \$3,000 Lawn tractor SKLT \$3,500 Intern \$2,500 Deer fence USACE \$2,000 Fertilizer \$1,500 Roguing \$2,500</p> <p>\$15,000 total.</p> <p>A motion was made to give them another \$1,000. This A motion was passed to give the South Kingstown Land Trust another \$1,000 for the lawn tractor.</p> <p>We are asking for \$15,000 from the Manton foundation, and more from a Forest Service grant for an intern. John Emery asked if it would it be beneficial to approach the Sudbury Foundation? They are local and have a history of donating to TACF. A motion was made and passed to apply for this grant.</p> <p>We won't know if we have intern money until the grant is awarded. We still have \$1,000 committed to this.</p>
INSURANCE FOR THE BOARD	<p>It was noted that there are different types of insurance, one for errors and omission another for liability. Probably errors and omission is not needed, but the other would be applicable. Cost has prohibited us so far from getting this. Could we look to National for this? They have buying power for group insurance, which we could benefit from.</p> <p>Chains saws and ladders always raise red flags with insurance companies. In Massachusetts there is a Recreations Use Act where if people are on your land doing things, and you are not charging a fee, you are not liable. Different insurance options were discussed, including "umbrella policies" for each board member. Jamie and Yvonne will look into to this and report at our Spring meeting.</p>
RESTORATION BRANCH	Thinking toward our next event, Brad suggested the winter, as opposed to

COMMITTEE	<p>the weekend after Labor Day. It was noted that we also need a good committee. Elizabeth H got a list of members who are not board members that she invited to be on the committee. Three people responded who want to contribute to the silent auction. Guy is working on a bluebird house making program for the silent auction. Charlotte's husband can make more egg cups and Kathy has a great poem, if we could find a calligrapher to make a document for the auction.</p> <p>Old Sturbridge Village gave us discounts last year but we could try Tower Hill or Drumlin Farm as another venue?</p>
SPRING MEETING	Sunday, March 15, 2012
MEETING ADJOURNED	4:31 p.m.