

MATACF Quarterly Minutes July 15, 2006

Afternoon Board Meeting

Meeting began 1:10

Present: Denis Melican, Lois Breault-Melican, Kathy Desjardin, Brad Smith, John Emery, Rufin Van Bosuyt, Mike Novack, Charlotte Zampini, Mike Meixsell, Yvonne Federowicz, Jamie Donalds, Dave Ugucioni, Guy Shepard, Richard Hoffman

National would like a Financial Report for the fall meeting.

I.) Treasurer's Report – Mike N.

Mike is not “evening things out” the same way Anne had been, and we have gotten more checks since this – we had a large accountant bill. So we're better than the statement looks financially.

State said we are current on filings. We filed the Form PC. State doesn't 'worry' about it because we don't do paid fundraising or exchange of pay with National. Federal gov't – we are getting the Non-profit status to continue. We did not become a private foundation. We will always have to watch our status to some extent to guard against that. We are far from the danger point in becoming a private foundation though. We do not want our Board donations to be a large chunk of our donations.

So we have spent \$4800 for orchard supplies for new orchards (5) . Shipping and delivery costs were higher this year. Also lots of Bitrex requests; \$50/gallon. (JD) Jamie also has some of the egg-based deer repellent. Bitrex has taste not much smell.

II.) Secretary's Report – Kathy Desjardin

Big increase in membership over a few months ago. We are in good shape. Could be from the Georgia chestnut stand report – publicity helps.

Has F1s.

New orchards – events, plantings: River Bend etc.

Blissful Meadows – has barn with chestnut wood – writing an article, want Kathy to proofread. Chestnut Room holds 180 people. Possible site for meeting?

We have over 400 local members now.

III.) Pollination (in morning minutes)

9 total: Quabbin, Orleans, N. Hadley, Maynard, Wayland, Newton, Holyoke, Uxbridge, ? NH, Holden,
Numerous F1 attempts also.
Jonathan Bates from Hadley tree interested in planting in area near river.

Could potentially create our own lines of resistance. Chinese? Local American that might have some resistance, e.g. Gloucester, RI?
Also – re. Gloucester RI – tree is on town/school land, actively being preserved by town’s tree warden. YF wishes our chapter to place a demonstration planting there. School = education plus a town with a conservation ethic & good forestry/tree warden staff.

We are creating our own source by creating more F1s.

IV.) Demonstration plantings

CZ – Anne liked to put a small group of seedlings into a spot to see if they grew well to test a site. Now, we have lots of nuts. So we don’t need to do that but could do demo plantings.

At least a dozen trees. At least a couple of lines. School would need to commit to a small grove of trees.

Richard Hoffman: has put in numerous Asian trees at “Pheasant farm” – has permission to put up a demonstration planting there.
Also has some misc. BCx trees. Peach festival in August.

JD: are our spots with misc. plantings documented anywhere?

CZ – Susan and Gerry did some but not necessarily documented?

Some at Western New England College.

Some in Greenfield.

All oral histories, we lack a good recording off these.

Need to have a better-defined method for this.

MN – science programs in schools might want a useable orchard. 60 trees with 2 lines? Would need more to allow for losses. Also controls.

Mike M: would like to add that signage be part of this. Also forms.

Guy – motion that we establish a subcommittee to study the feasibility of and plan for demonstration plantings, for next meeting; including:

What does planting consist of

Signage

Reporting duties

Purpose

Multiple types of demo plantings possible

Templates

Seconded: Jamie

Passed unanimously.

Volunteers – Guy, John E., Mike N., Yvonne, and whoever else wants to. Will organize via email.

Conway orchard: had criticism from DEM of time re. Moore State Park – “we” had not taken care of Conway orchard. However this was a very remote site in terms of the road’s condition. Is a small spot, like a natural forest clearing.

V.) Bylaw change for Annual Meeting. Mike M.
Expansion of number of Board Members – Bylaw has inconsistent references to how to do this. John Mirick was going to help work on this. Next year we need to work on the other inconsistencies in the bylaws. We need to have this ready 14 days before meeting.

We will have a September board meeting.

VI.) Brad working on new Seedlings... Has notes on articles.
Winter moths. Presentations.

Boston has 11 Chestnut – related street names. Fewer in Berkshires.

Email articles to Brad! Pictures are good too.

VII.) Publicity – Brad still working on.
MN – national chestnut issues getting much more publicity.

Chestnut mother trees - mapping:
Need a master list of the mother trees, with locations.
Whoever pollinates trees this summer – Yvonne needs locations for master list – the more accurate the data, the better.
Ideally, GPS location; next preference: street address – next, town location.

Chapter has at least 3 GPS units.

VIII.) Possible joint meeting with CT.

Good reasons to meet together: sharing what works with orchards, etc.
Questions: issue of S.A.’s non-American characteristics theories.

Would be good to have meeting with Leila, Marshall, etc. to see what her role will be.
Leila has been helping CT with plantings etc.

Need separate Board Meetings in am for CT & MA. Joint speaker(s) in pm. Perhaps a location with good interstates. However need to check the costs. Backup could be Blissful Meadows.

Also – reports on Orchards.

Shared facilities, shared afternoon talks. Brad will talk to Garrett Smith about this.

We would like to hear how they are doing.

National Meeting Date:

Annual Meeting Date: 11th, with 18th as a fall-back date.
(Update post-meeting to this: Nov. 19th is Annual Mtg.)

Nov. 11th is Veterans Day. Saturday might have better attendance. That is two weeks after National Meeting.

Yvonne will get name of Global Warming researchers who have done modeling of tree locations under various global warming models.

IX.) Presentations Update:

- Ruffin giving talk in Minnesota – Association. Large number of potentially interested people attending.
- Sudbury: Staff oversees all Eastern MA refuges. Mass Wildlife Refuges are overseen by a complex. Four Board Members participated. Also several Refuge volunteers. Had a good display. Had a longish presentation. Participants learned about local orchards. Brad commented that the Paul Cisco-based presentation may be easier to give in a shorter time than Anne's version.
- Mike N. talk to Earth Firsters' National Roundtable. Jefferson National Forest. VA. Had a large number of people. Some climbers offered to help with a canopy net if there was a tree that we wanted to pollinate that a bucket tree couldn't reach. Next year Southern Indiana.
- Lois, Denis, Yvonne talk to Appalachian Mountain Club group. Good group even though in pouring rain. Very interested people.
- We were invited back to the Big E – Lois. We need signs for next year, also plants. Last year we had 60-100. Somewhat smaller number should be ok. Jamie will grow more for next year.
- Lois submitted a proposal for November 3rd – Trustees of Reservations – may have a talk. Friday. Need a speaker.

Motion – authorize new signage in advance: 5 sets. Charlotte. Rich Hoffman seconded. Unanimously approved.

New orchards – so at least 4. Identical to the Tower Hill signs. Laminated, all-weather signs. Posts are difficult to make. Bought 5 for \$200 last year each. Also, signs for Blissful Meadows folks – Kathy lent hers. We need a traveling sign, they are very good for educational events. Jamie has some mounting templates – pieces of wood as examples (to mount signs on.)

- X.) How much VA-based material to introduce into Massachusetts?
Do we have a chapter policy about this? Dave – they may have lots of nuts down there... Mike N. – don't think that VA trees will reproduce well up here since Fred mentioned that frozen nuts won't grow, yet our ground freezes a foot deep and our nuts germinate fine. Q: is this to test their nuts in the North? Fred had emailed Anne – had wanted to plant up here. Initial ones would go to US Forest Service anyway. Want to keep it slow so other lines have a chance to catch up. Contracting out propagation of seeds... Need to explore with Fred. CZ – wouldn't go any further than a few demo trees. These would be highly resistant trees. Effect of global warming on trees – do we want southern trees up here for that reason? – YF BC3 nuts on Peabody Energy sites. Biggest problem was soil compaction – massive machinery. Breaking it up allows moisture down in.
- XI.) Next Quarterly Meeting: Jim Garland had back surgery and won't be able to make the next meeting. Sunday October 15th.

Meeting ended at 4:10