

# MA/RI TACF Meeting July 31, 2011

183 Silver Street, Granville, MA 01034

## Orchard Managers Meeting Opened at 10:23

MEMBERS: Yvonne Federowicz, Brian Clark, Jamie Donald, Charlotte Zampini, Mike Novack, Roy Najecki, Denis Melican, Lois Melican, John Meiklejohn, Rich Hoffman.

INOCULATIONS	Charlotte gave overview of 2011 inoculations done at Moore State Park and the Hawley/Ashfield orchard, which is approximately 1/3 done at this time, with more orchards to be done next year.
POLLINATIONS	Pollinations were done at Coventry RI and Sudbury, and two trees in Southborough, this gives us four new Nanking lines, possibly five. There was a redo in Ashfield/Hawley with 6 trees total 2 sort of small. Now we need to think about next year.
RATINGS	Ratings were done in Wrentham, Sterling and Grafton, with a few resistant trees. They have been roguing out trees in Wrentham, taking out another 25.
SEED ORCHARD NUTS	John Emery did crosses on the Wayland trees with 4 selections, and two types of crosses on each tree with 25 bags on each cross, making a total of 200 bags. CZ said it was nearly impossible to do pollination at the Sterling orchard because you can't get there with an orchard ladder. Brian Clark did a couple of hundred pollinations in Ashfield. There are also lots of mutt nuts so in terms of mixed nuts for just establishment type of experiments we'll have plenty.
PHYTOPHTHORA	Charlotte did some phytophthora testing to determining the base of phytophthora infection in our orchards.
MUTT NUTS	There is a forester looking for these to try to do experiments on getting these out into the woods. Rufin & Charlotte gave a few hundred nuts to the Watuppa Reservation in Fall River, and Bruce Spencer took some to plant in the Quabbin
AGRIFOS	Yvonne said that National thinks this is a good program. and people who have chestnut trees are asking about it. If there is enough interest, it may be useful for keeping some trees alive Charlotte suggests that it has potential and 2 years of using this have proven successful. The Conway trees and an Ashfield tree has been treated along with a couple of trees in Goshen. In Wilbraham there is a stand with about 100 trees, and this would be a good place to test it out. Rich Hoffman said it is easy to use, just mix and put on. Treestuff.com has the best price about \$100 for a gallon, maybe the Chapter can get some and put it in pint bottles to share amongst members. There are some liability issues with pentrobark, sold as a combination.
DEMO PLANTING OF RESTORATION CHESTNUTS	Yvonne passed out a list of potential sites for planting these
SEED ORCHARDS	<p>In orchards we are collecting f2 nuts now and once we rogue out we may have lots of potential space if we can extend agreements. There may be some overlap, however we do not have all our seed orchard blocks set up yet, so we need the nut producing B3s to get nuts from.</p> <p>Mike Novak said we don't have to have them every year, after 5 or 6 years, when we are collecting nuts, we can cut down the ones we had been collecting from after another 5 or 10 years. We can coppice these trees and use them when they resprout and start producing again.</p>

	<p>Charlotte said it's better if we have 3 lines, if you have orchards that need to be replanted, Jamie Donalds said to put in some Nankings. she said we are nearly finished with Nankings, if we get a good crop this year, we can stop now.</p> <p>Mike Novak said doing the selection of F3s is much smaller, 16 – 25 not 100s. Small orchards can become seed orchards for the F3s. This is another approach to reusing space. BC will be happy to put another line in Ashfield.</p>
<p>ARMY CORP OF ENGINEERS</p>	<p>Charlotte and Rufin were too busy to look at their sites in June. YF visited one of these and the soil may not be consistently dry enough, as the site looks pretty wet. MN topo maps can be very informative.</p>
<p>SEED ORCHARDS/ OTHER ORCHARDS</p>	<p>WATUPPA RESERVATION Will we place a seed orchard or Nanking line there? Charlotte asked if they got rid of Atlantic white cedar yet, and if so, this is a good spot because it is staffed and fenced. Kendra suggested seed orchard there. Charlotte things it's probably a little small for that, however maybe we can do one block, actually OK to reuse as you end up with the genetics of more than one tree. The site needs to have some trees taken down, as it's too shady.</p> <p>TATTERSALL FARM, North of Boston, sent an email about an orchard, this might be a good visibility site and JD will check this out.</p> <p>Denis &amp; Lois Melican visited the Hebert Arboretum in Pittsfield (this may be the group who contacted us about a presentation in March) and spoke with their arborist, who was very interested in chestnut. They sent him 2 copies of Mighty Giants, one for him and one for the Board of Directors at the Arboretum. They will be in touch with him by email on this.</p> <p>At Moore State Park, Chief Forester for DCR Bill Hill visited the site at the park that would be used for a seed orchard, and spent about 2 hours at the park. He recently contacted Attorney John Mirick to get more information about the seed orchard agreement between DCR and TACF that would have to be signed.</p> <p>Mike Novak is also interested in a seed orchard on his property.</p> <p>We should also look at other chapters and see how their seed orchards are doing.</p>
	<p>Another place with good volunteer base is Harvard Forest. As their whole mission is about trees, possibly this is something we should think about. It's possible that many people at Harvard Forest would be interested in chestnut. We are not sure about how much open land they have breeding or seed orchards but they could have sites where they have removed invasives, for example, and have space there. CZ said they could start with a small seed orchard which could be allowed to pollinate naturally in the cluster. and we could look at natural dispersion. It's the kind of research they would do if they could find the space. We are now at the stage where they may be interested in helping us with our work. Jamie Donald, Denis Melican and Lois Melican will check into Harvard Forest.</p> <p>NEFF (New England Forestry Foundation) would also be a good fit</p>

	<p>and possibly they have someone who could care for the trees. They have land in Granville which is open land, which would work if we could get a local orchard manager.</p> <p>Kendra was going to contact the Arnold Arboretum about a demo orchard/planting there, with the latest news being that they were looking at the paperwork.</p> <p>OSV will take more trees for planting, a RI member purchased and planted two trees that have died. If he gave a large donation we should follow up on this and see if he want a replacement for the trees. We have seedling that we can use for this.</p> <p>DEMO B3F3s if you're working on these trees, autumn if approaching, National is not returning germplasm agreements as they are busy, Gilbert Stewart has signed one Rufin and Kathy may have some.</p>
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BOARD MEETING opened at 11:30 a.m.

MEMBERS: Yvonne Federowicz, Brian Clark, Jamie Donald, Charlotte Zampini, Mike Novack, Roy Najecki, Denis Melican, Lois Melican, John Meiklejohn, Rich Hoffman and John Emery with no guests

MINUTES FROM SPRING MEETING	minutes from spring meeting approved
TREASURER'S REPORT	<p>Discussion on missing check that was given to OSV (Old Sturbridge Village) Apparently they have misplaced this check so Mike will have to do a transaction to Sturbridge Village.</p> <p>New change is the bank is now charging us \$3. per month - dial –up connection will not work for online banking this is a charge for the check images.</p> <p>We're still Ok for the year, we are done paying the intern but this does not show on these sheets, when we pay her the \$5000 dedicated to this. In the next year or two we will be spending lots of money, so we will be running in the red.</p> <p>Jamie asked what the net increase year is over year. It's been tough couple of years, but we are remaining steady. We get money in the early winter and are not spending money until the summer. Many expenses do not show now, they are 2nd quarter; it's an uneven pattern which is why we don't budget, an annual budget is OK and cash flow is OK.</p> <p>Mike would like someone to audit the books just to check, an account reconciliation party, can we do this as part of a meeting? We could try the winter meeting. This is good for liability, we'll do it prior to a board meeting and we should do this annually. Maybe RN (Roy Najecki) can put something together that we can use each year for this purpose.</p> <p>We must file a 990N to show we are still in existence and under the threshold. They don't want to see the EZform because we are under that. How is the income from national reported? Mike Novak gets a hard copy of money</p>
SECRETARY'S	Membership is stable at about 327 which fluctuates slightly.

REPORT	<p>THANK YOU PLAQUE PRESENTATION – Kathy will do this, CZ said that we motion was made to pay for the branch dinner for these folks and give them plaques then. Motion was carried so Frank Howard and Jim Garland would be invited as guests and receive their plaques then.</p> <p>Yvonne would like to invite other people - if anyone has someone they can think of, give us their names; what about environmentally sound politicians?</p>
STERLING ORCHARD	<p>Jamie had planned on roguing out the orchard with his men’s group until Charlotte asked him not to do this because of the phytophethera. It made sense to rogue out the controls so 5 or 6 people were going to do this. Mr. Delasandro, the property owner, said this is fine but the liability was ours. Jamie then got a call from the property owner’s insurance company, who wanted proof of insurance coverage, saying that he (the owner) was not responsible if anything happened. After this call, Jamie let it go as he did not want to push the issue and anger the owner. As there is no orchard manager there, Jamie thought it would be best to take this issue to the board and possibly draft a letter to the owner.</p> <p>At the fall meeting we can address this and get John Mirick’s legal opinion.</p> <p>Charlotte wants to test for phytophethera, and we want these seeds. She selected and marked all the trees for roguing - JE asked if we can we girdle them? Jamie is concerned that we may not be able to go on the property at all to get nuts? Jerry and Susan Cormier were the original contacts for this orchard.</p> <p>Rich Hoffman mentioned the liability of someone suing if they get hurt on property.</p> <p>Charlotte said she did not call the last time maybe that’s why he was mad. She’ll call and find out about short term insurance, as he doesn’t want us to make a claim against his insurance.</p> <p>Roy can send a copy of a “Hold Harmless Clause” that states we will not sue landowner for injuries on their land. Maybe we should check w. Jerry and Susan. Roy and Jamie and John Mirick will handle this – RN asked if National has any document like this?</p>
RESTORATION BRANCH	<p>Saturday evening, Sept 10 at OSV. Elizabeth Hammond asked for two things - more silent auction items and could someone provide any other chestnut items that we could use. The cost of the event is covered in the price of the tickets; silent auction is to raise money for the Chapter. Do we want to spend \$75 for Apples and Chestnuts print? If anyone can think of things, send them to Elizabeth, they do not have to be chestnut related</p> <p>Invitation list – we have a large mailing list of people who are already members but the idea is to get new members. It was asked whether or not we could ask other environmental organizations such as the Trustees of Reservations (TTOR) or Mass Audubon to send out invitations or mentions the event to their members. Maybe the T&amp;G can do a story about the event.</p> <p>Jamie said that traditionally at a Restoration Branch Event, someone</p>

	<p>not affiliated with the board usually organizes a committee, and has a list of people to invite, which we do not. He felt that this event should not take much time from Board Members, who already have plenty to do, if we do not have a clear message or goal.</p> <p>Charlotte feels that we really need new members, especially new active members, and this is one tactic for going after new members. MN sees these members as having various ins in their towns, and that we should target members who have contacted us in some way.</p> <p>Yvonne said that National will handle publicity and invitations for this event, and part of what happened when we agreed to this event is that we thought some of last year's Branch Event members from Princeton would help this year, but all of these people declined. Bryan Burhans is not available but Mark is coming.</p> <p>In the future we should have minimum standards and next year we should have a committee for this, Roy asked if Elizabeth is getting publicity, and that now is the time for this. We have 300 members and are willing to send out invitation for all these members. NEFF may be a good source of names as it is not big and may not be so protective of their member base; possibly the New England Wildflower Society or OSV would promote this event, EH would be the logical person to reach out to OSV and they add the information in a letter or email to their members. Rich Giordano could ask OSV.</p> <p>Guy is in contact with TTOR and NEFF; maybe he can contact them and ask them to let their members know about this event.</p>
SUMMER INTERN 2011	<p>Needs more hours (80) her internship to get credit. She is good worker, and John E and Brian C can use help for a few hours, a few days a week. Denis can also use help at Moore SP.</p> <p>Charlotte cannot go with her all the time, if she can be with someone else from TACF to work with, that would be fine. She will work in Lancaster w. Charlotte and John Emery, and anyone who needs help in their orchard should let Charlotte know and she'll be in touch via email. She can also do measuring, fertilizing, taking orchard data, etc. She'll be available until Sept. 4 when classes start. Kendra will be collecting the orchard data this year.</p>
OUTREACH	<p>There was a great article in the Worcester Telegram and a story in Eco RI, put on Brown University's home page.</p> <p>Denis gave a copy of Mighty Giants to Globe environmental writer Beth Daley, who said she would put the book in the Boston Globe library.</p> <p>Wrentham Development Center Sept 15 – 18 is having a Cracker Barrel Fair that we could attend - would the fee be waived?</p> <p>Can we get more pamphlets, Mike Novak said if we wanted to enter a competition we could do with no fee. There are designated requirements about what is in the display so you don't get disqualified, but we could use chestnut products and chestnut wood,</p> <p>The TACF 2010 annual report was sent to Yvonne and Jamie</p>
TACF-MA/RI FALL MEETING 2011	<p>October 1, is the date of our autumn quarterly meeting. The meeting will probably be at Roger Williams Park in Providence RI</p> <p>Jamie noted that having a nice site in Oct could bring a strong group of people; YF is hoping that because the meeting is in RI, we will be</p>

	<p>happy to meet the “southern” folks, and hope many of them will attend. RW park is a historic park that includes a carousel, museum, planetarium, a zoo, and a botanical center with native plantings including chestnut in their “food forest” It was typically a site abundant in chestnut. Roger Williams Park is just off Rte. 95.</p>
TACF-MA/RI ANNUAL MEETING 2011	<p>ANNUAL MEETING DATE AND VENUE – It was decided to try Harvard Forest, on Sunday Nov. 13<sup>th</sup>, for the Annual Meeting 2011 with Nov. 20<sup>th</sup> as an alternate. The group decided that Harvard Forest may be a good place, as we had had an Annual Meeting in the past. Jamie, Denis &amp; Lois will contact Harvard Forest. Possibly they would have a presenter who could be our keynote speaker.</p>
NOMINATIONS AND NEW BOARD MEMBERS	<p>Yvonne said we had one opening on the Board and if anyone had any ideas, please let her and Lois know. The members who will be re-elected this year are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kathy Desjardin 2003 - yes</li> <li>John Emery 2001 - yes</li> <li>Yvonne Federowicz 2003</li> <li>Lois Breault-Melican 2005 - yes</li> <li>Denis Melican 2005 - yes</li> <li>John Mirick 2005</li> <li>Mike Novack – Charter, 2001 - yes</li> <li>Rufin Van Bossuyt – Charter, 2001</li> <li>Charlotte Zampini 2001 - yes</li> <li>Roy Najecki – yes</li> </ul>
GRANTS & DONATIONS	<p>Yvonne explained about the \$50,000 grant from National to the New England states and how it must be spent, these figures would be up to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$1,000. planting supplies</li> <li>\$5,000. Site prep &amp; deer fencing</li> <li>\$2,500. Seed orchard prep</li> </ul> <p>This money must be spent before Dec. 31, 2011 or it will revert back. If the start date for this was this past spring, many expenses could be eligible; Mike N needs to find out exactly when this went into effect. These could include expenses such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GRANVILLE - bulldozing – 6 weeks ago; needs mowing, maybe \$100.; deer fence, could possibly hire someone for this, John Me will get a bid for this; harrowing the field, Charlotte suggested doing the whole field, rather than just a small section, we could get rid of the poison ivy then use a cover crop.</li> <li>ASHFIELD/HAWLEY – most things done this past summer</li> <li>OTHER – \$400 orchard ladder, fertilizer and site prep, \$408 irrigation</li> <li>GLOUCESTER, RI is asking for \$600 for deer fencing a motion was made &amp; approved for \$600 for the deer fence here.</li> </ul>
OTHER REQUESTS	<p>South Kingston \$3000 – irrigation supplies and they have specific things in mind, with a group of solid technical people to do the work. The estimate is pretty sound, it may even be a little less than this – John M asked if it made sense to approve ½ of this now and see how the project goes. Charlotte suggested we approve \$2000 to get them started and if they need more, we can vote on this later. Also, invite them to the next meeting.</p> <p>Out of \$1000 we have a \$400 orchard ladder, deer fence can go under the \$5000, there already has been \$1000 on seed site prep in Granville, take this off seed orchards, \$408 or irrigation and fertilizer for Hawley could go under site prep, for planting we have \$300 left we need more for site prep and we will have spent 3000 out of 5000 with more for site prep</p>

OTHER GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Mike applied to NRCS and discovered that to apply as an entity we must be certified by applying to the farm services to be eligible( FSA must work with) just this week Jamie Kneeland certified us with a number so that we can now apply for this grant. It's too late for this year, but we can be reimbursed if we get the paperwork in on time for next year.

The question was asked if we could get back the \$\$ we have already spent? 50,000 is money going from us & national we are spending the money with the idea that after the fact they may reimburse us. MN said go ahead, the worse can happen is they say no. it seems on the surface that because we are an entity we have nothing to lose and we may gain something

Not sure about this



Make a motion to can we get an idea on how much this will cost (CZ)? Fence is not expensive, corners are expensive due to bracing, we may need fending from woodchucks, groundhogs, and small animals because the trees will be so close together, we may want to place the plants a little farther apart to prevent herbivory, If the expense is S Kingstown fold have asked for their fending to be covered, they have a situation w irrigation as there will be a CSA sharing the site, they want to rent a ditch which they came up w. \$3000 and may have other options, but maybe we can help pay for this. Charlotte if we approve up to that amount then could we

THE FOLLOWING ARE NOTE UPDATES FROM YVONNE AND NOTES FROM KENDRA ON THE SAME SUBJECT:

Charlotte: if we approve up to (\$2000 of the \$3000) then could we get more for them depending upon how the grant needs work out with Granville etc.

The South Kingstown folks have a grant to cover their fencing. They need the \$3000 for irrigation. We made a MOTION and passed it to cover \$2000 of it and the additional \$1000 potentially in the future if needed.

All the amounts are always worded "Up To \$2 Trillion Dollars" so that the spender can spend less and be within the motion.

**Grant-related MOTIONS that I remember:**

Maybe we can have a list of these in the minutes, all together?

MOTION: \$1000 already spent this summer on site prep at Granville can be submitted against the grant.

(This one generated a discussion on when the grant's period started, which got confusing...)

MOTION: Gloucester, RI - Roy: deer fencing up to \$600

MOTION: SKLT/URI-MG: up to \$2000 for irrigation on seed orchard from grant

MOTION: Up to remaining \$3500 of grant to Granville seed orchard for site prep and deer fencing

MOTION: Up to \$300 then amended up to \$400 for good weedwhacker for chapter

There was also \$400 spent on irrigation & fertilizer from Brian Clarke already that is going to be submitted. This is an amount that is a regular orchard cost.

However we get \$8500 total! That is correct, although the subcategories also have to be appropriate.

My table went like this but was based on slightly incorrect information about the grant;

	<p>Kendra says we can move things around some though:</p> <p><b><u>Grant Allocations by Category:</u></b></p> <p><u>Site Prep and Deer Fence:</u> (Should have been just Deer Fence per Kendra's last email)  \$600 Gloucester, RI deer fence - MOTION just passed  \$400 Hawley, MA irrigation, fertilizer - Brian Clarke, spent early summer 2011  \$2000 SKLT/URI-MG irrigation - MOTION just passed  \$2000 Granville, MA Deer fence, plowing, harrowing - need bids - MOTION just passed (\$3500 total, see below)</p> <p><u>Seed Orchard Prep</u>  \$1000 Granville, MA Seed Orchard Site prep already done early summer 2011 - MOTION just passed  \$1500 Granville, MA Deer fence, plowing, harrowing - need bids - MOTION just passed (\$3500 total, see above)</p> <p><u>Planting Supplies</u>  \$400 good orchard ladder; board approved previously. Yvonne has receipt.  \$400 good weedwhacker</p> <p>My brain is now fried and it's only 9:30. We are going up to Maine today. I will send the last part out to the seed orchard folks plus Dennis the accountant at National to see what they say...</p> <p>Thank you for all you work on this... Yvonne</p> <p>Hi All –</p> <p>To clarify some of the questions about the New England grant funding that is available, here's the skinny I have from our accountant, Dennis Kimball. The grant specifies different categories of funding – for the MA/RI Chapter those are orchard supplies (\$1,000), deer fencing (\$5000) and seed orchard site prep (\$2500). We must have a receipt for any purchases that fall under these categories in order to reimburse the chapter. So if you bought a ladder already, send Dennis the receipt and tell him it's an orchard expense for this grant. If you want to do things that are a little more expensive, like cover so much towards a deer fence, you can have those types of expenses billed directly to TACF/Dennis but you need to work that out with him first. What will not work is just giving money to someone towards a purchase – we need the receipts for auditing purposes. For large purchases I would strongly encourage you to work with Dennis before spending any money so we make sure it is done in a way that can be reimbursed from this grant. The money is there for you, I just want to make sure you get it.</p> <p>I hope this helps!</p> <p>Kendra</p>
GRANVILLE CR	As part of the Conservation Restriction process the Meiklejohn's have created forest stewardship plan that will be approved by DCR. Tom Ryan process this plan and send them a response.
OTHER BUSINESS	Weed whacker – do we want to make a motion to use money for a weed whacker – a motion was made and approved to amend the amount to \$400 rather than \$300 to buy a commercial grade string trimmer, preferably a “bicycle handle” type. There is a 61 acre site in Brookline that Charlotte and Rufin will go out to visit to see if it is suitable for planting.

GRANVILLE	A motion was made an approved for \$3,500. for site prep here.
	Motion was made to add or change to a string trimmer from the weed whacker order?
1:45	Meeting Adjourned

Respectfully submitted by Lois Breault-Melican