

MATACF Autumn Quarterly Board Meeting 10/22/2005 - Draft

Opened 1:14 PM

Board Members Present:

Brad Smith, Mike Novack., Mike Meixsell, Kathy Desjardin, Rufin Van Bossuyt, Jamie Donalds, Frank Howard, Gary Jacobs, Yvonne Federowicz, Lois Breault-Melican, Denis Melican, Jim Garland, Guy Shephard

Motion to approve minutes from 7/24/05 meeting: Frank Howard. Seconded: Gary Jacobs. Unanimously approved.

Treasurer report:

Mike Novack

State filings re. Officer changes – refilings – have not been confirmed by state yet.

Kathy and Mike N. have checkbooks.

Emails re our nonprofit status.

State is very far behind, does not always return emails...

Financial status: Mike N. no quarterly reimbursements from National. No financial report from Mike N. Jamie asked how we can support Mike in getting this out.

Nonprofit mailing: contact list. Kathy and Yvonne will work on

Mike N. has not yet received any membership funds from National (we should get a portion of each person's membership in our states; \$15.)

It is unclear how often we should be getting these. Mike N. not sure how to verify numbers.

We should be good at getting through January into next spring.

Jamie - \$500 per orchard irrigation. Cheaper than we thought. However we may need more done next year.

Documents that need to be submitted

- 1.) Secretary of State: Annual Report - Kathy
- 2.) Secretary of State: Certification of Change of Officers - Kathy
- 3.) IRS: Annual Filing with copy to Attorney General – 501-C-3 – Mike Novack – Form PC to Attorney General; 990EZ to IRS

Update at next meeting on these filings

Report to National on our Activities (Brad) - special report
Tell Brad about all presentations – email him

Demonstration Orchard at the Big E: (Lois and Denis)

Avenue of States is highlight of Faire; new bus and group entrance; this year they decided to landscape the backs of buildings. Massachusetts had a chestnut orchard, cranberry bog, etc. Excellent signs. Our signs were considered very good. Accessibility issues being worked on. Over a million people went to Big E, excellent publicity. Lots of brochures went out – over 1800. No way to identify if new memberships will come from this.

Yvonne will change MA form to give area “How did you hear about us” and “Extra donations to MA” or something to those effects.

Next year Lois and Denis will be putting in something more permanent. Hollie Orchard hasn't lost a lot of trees, won't need replacement.

National makes our signs for us. Someplace near Bennington. Daphne is contact person.

Letter from Dept. of Agriculture received by our chapter: (Kathy) recognition of our efforts at Massachusetts State level (MA Dept. of Agriculture) Gov. Romney signed.

Sandy Gessford: No longer wishes to participate by writing letters to new members. Kathy will take over.
We should provide a gift and thank-you to Sandy for her years of contribution.

Recognition: need to provide for Utility Companies. They need letters (and pictures are also nice) so they can get certified for “Tree Line USA” program.
Also Arborists appreciate getting recognition.
Utilities pay the bills. Others may also donate time.

Web page – we could have a web page thanking them.
Should go to the individual (Rufin) – who schedules.

We need new stationary. Kathy will obtain. Emailing a PDF of blank stationary would enable all to send letters.

Annual Meeting Planning... 2005

Brad will find list of Annual Meeting supplies and we will coordinate via email.
People should try to park down near the police station – parking problems.

Review of Harvest 2005 (Jamie for Charlotte)

Did a lot of trees this year!
2 trees were a complete failure; Fred had forgotten to check the delivery “overnight” option and the pollen for these sat in a hot place too long, it appears.
Pollen can travel a long way depending upon conditions; we had some odd situations showing possible natural pollination this year.

Rufin found an acorn in a bag!
We had a very good year in F1s.
Same with Chinese thanks to John Mirrick.
Pure Americans?
Anyone with insufficient controls should plant this year.
Over 250 F1s just off Andover, plus others off other trees.
Will need to germinate, etc. Need at least 10 F1s per orchard.

Squirrel Report:

Frank Howard

10 squirrels instead of 90 in nearby area; did much better at harvest – plus lots of acorns.
Red oaks only produce acorns every other year.
Virtually no squirrels near Quabbin because of poor acorn harvest.

Discussions of possible new orchards: see morning minutes (consolidated)

Seedlings Newsletter: Brad needs help!

Information, keeping track of what we've done over the last year. Reports from members with pictures. Kathy, Yvonne and Brad will work on at Kathy's house.
To be distributed after Annual meeting.

Kathy had trouble getting our nonprofit mailing transferred to her area from Susan Cormier's area. It is now resolve. Yay Kathy!

What do groups do that have very active members? How can we get people interested?

Possible putting lots of effort into "Seedlings".

Anne Myers suggested once that Frank Howard go to a New England Wildflower meeting. Small tasks are often less threatening.

Could National provide us with articles? (Gary) National's resources are pretty lean (Jamie)

We as board members need to contribute information in blurbs that are easily useable for Seedlings.

Blogging as a way to keep people updated re. activities? Can have side bars with topics.

How to organize a blog? Yvonne will investigate.

Annual Elections:

Should everyone who is an orchard manager be a Board Member? (Yvonne)

Board members need to agree to show up at meetings;

Need to be active

People who show up are good candidates (Jamie)

A few orchard managers don't ever come to meetings

A few people have resigned

Corporate members may wish a Board seat
Board seats should not be too automatic (Mike N.)

Does anyone not wish to continue as a Board Member? (No answer)

Bruce Spencer may be willing to be on board. (Rufin) has not shown up yet though.

Prospective board members should attend meetings

Officers:

Brad will run for president

Charlotte was nominated for vice president (Gary) and Yvonne seconded

Kathy and Mike N. – Secretary and Treasurer

Yvonne will mail out slate of candidates this week.

Winter meeting: January 14th Saturday Same Location

Watched DVD “Chestnut Dating Service” with Jamie and Tom Warhol - now on sale from National. Also local cable program with Charlotte.

Meeting adjourned at 4:10 pm

MATACF Morning Orchard Meeting 10/23/05

10:35 am opened

Present: Mike Novack, John Mirick, Judy O’Neil , Nancy Lubrin , Kathy Desjardin, Rufin Van, Jamie Donalds, Brad Smith, Gary Jacobs, Guy Shephard, Lois & DenisBreau-Melican, Yvonne Federowicz, Frank Howard, Jim Garland

Sara Fitzimmon’s Data request for volunteer work

People commented that they had been told not to collect hours worked data

Discussion of how to count these hours

Pruning for Earliest Possible Innoculation with Blight

Pruning demonstration – Gary Jacobs. Small pruning saw best for chestnut

Pruning to branches’ collar rather than a flush cut or leaving stubs

Future problems – without getting one stem dominant, all will be too small to test blight resistance on for longer time period.

Our trees have many different forms (Jamie)

Bad crotches – V too low – one will split eventually, weaker, unhealthy (Gary)

Current thinking – let tree have more branches until approx. 2nd year so can photosynthesize – keep 1/3 leaf surface in any event (Guy)
Trees should be pruned dormant in some cases, not in others (Mike N.)
Fruit trees – Jan. – Ornamentals – season not as critical (Guy)
We're not pruning for fruit/nuts at this point.
Branch collar good. Sharp tools very important as they do less damage to tree. (Gary)
Jamie – best way to prune to encourage height?
Want lots in crown, puts stress on trunk – thickens (Gary)
Don't want a lot of aesthetic pruning (Guy)
At National Meeting, Rufin et al. will ask Fred about pruning, possibly get Sara down on Nov 14 or 15

Predation

Protection down low against voles (Rufin)
Resprouted ones often have multi stems.
Jim Garland had whole orchard tops eaten by deer within 4-5 day period in July
Don't want multiple stems
Deer will go after quick-growing things like chestnut
Deer also like apples, don't bother chestnuts if apples (Mike N.)
John Emery putting netting over buds – helps keep deer away from leader of tree (ask for details)
Dartmouth orchard: approx. 300 planted, all but 1 or 2 eaten. Were in Bluexes... Don't know what did it. No shells, evidence of eating. Bill Davis, managers US Fish & Wildlife, was asked. Didn't think turkeys would stick head down tube. Thought chipmunks or flying squirrels, but chipmunks leave shells. (Rufin)
Clips on Bluexes might help (Gary)
Planting seedlings? Lots of extra work. Also not as hardy.
Charlie Chestnut document has record of turkey found with 92 undigested (American) chestnuts in stomach... Could have been our Dartmouth problem.
No evidence that came from under Bluex at Dartmouth.
Meadowview has heavy clay, Fred worries about water building up inside Bluex. We have little clay, sandy.
Fill up Bluex, water seedling. (John Mirick)
Need to get bamboo down into native soil so it has better support (Gary)
Don't need to take Bluexes off, can cut off when tree too bug. Plans to leave on until tree stretches Bluex (Jamie)
West Boyleston – voles have partially girdled apple trees that are 8 inch diameter – not just young trees (Rufin)
Can use cable ties for tops
Rufin brought in Tree Guards – spiral trunk protectors. Available at Agway. Don't completely cover trunk. Other brands do completely cover trunk. Also Bluexes make these irrelevant, and most of us are using Bluexes.
Sonic system to deter animals (Judy)
Orchards large, no electric system (Gary) Also have Bitrex
Human-smell deterrents don't work so well if human-infested area, only if remote (Mike N.)

Clothespins on top of Bluetexes
Winter nibbling – hungry in late winter (Gary)
Bitrex spraying in late November? Just after leaf fall?

Email Jamie if need Bitrex – will have drop-shipped to you- needs to know who has deer pressure- is ordering

Clumps of human hair in branches seemed to work for Jamie

Future Orchard Leads

Plantings for Next Spring

Rufin spoke with Charlotte

Littleton – Jim Coull – expand

Bruce Spencer – Quabbin Reservoir – would like to establish orchard and manage it near his home – do all work – very experienced – property has been a hayfield; just off Rte. 202; in New Salem or Belchertown – near entrance to Prescott Peninsula; Quabbin would also be a good place to start establishing chestnut once nut production going; much experience establishing hardwoods (Rufin)

Hayfield might mean mycorrhizae needed (Mike N.)

Wants to use plastic to kill grass instead of chemicals

Mike Spolack in North Andover – orchardist in North Andover; heavily populated area; has apple trees etc. – runs an educational program with wagons pulled by tractors – pulls kids around, apple picking etc.; Chinese chestnuts on front of property; will clear land, plant, take care of. Is putting in a cherry orchard currently. Sells coffee, donuts, muffins etc. High-visibility area for us.

Dartmouth will try again.

Stockbridge possibility.

Peter Wild, who has helped pollinate, would like to establish orchard.

Chatham also possible

Kathy has two leads:

Dick S. in Conway – already have an orchard to manage in Conway... Lives in Brattleboro; has turned area of land into nonprofit trust; he is biologist/conservationist. Possible areas out in Stockbridge to establish trees later.

Mike Novack got called by Doc Cambell – Northfield; high land;

Jim Garland – friend with acres in Connecticut. Should she join us or CT? People encouraged Jim to encourage friend to join CT people since they are at an earlier stage and really need orchards and people; she could certainly come to our meetings too.

Mike Novack – getting more lines in future good thing. For each line keep 2-4 trees, need about 400 spaces for progeny. Will need a lot of space at that point.

Possible company near Billerica – Bristol-Myers-Squibb (Jamie knows about)

How to support this effort? Guy offered to help Jamie with this; Kathy will help with communications; could be a very good collaboration.

Good Earth in Rhode Island (Yvonne knows about)

Starting our own Chinese lines – more forest-type trees – in Upton. Nice growth form. Competing in forest.

(Gary)

Can introduce more sources of resistance.

TACF Journal – info about National’s other resistance source efforts in nice table

(Yvonne)

Wood chips for mulch: Charlotte felt good growth with roundup, keeps moisture there, less work. Injecting fertilizer through system.

Yvonne suggested organic methods have benefits, and Kathy’s wood chipped ones looked better.

Nut storage: some where poor germination – peat moss was too dry.

New Hampshire person: could plant Americans in area that was known for its chestnut in years past.

(Kathy D.)

Miscellaneous

Chestnut apples...

Giving away chestnut seedlings: purpose? (Gary) Might respond to Mudpacking. Education, money-making. By time trees die, perhaps we will have resistant ones available.

Beauty of American chestnut – Frank Howard – showed wonderful plaque – talking about beauty helps spread message very well. Works better sometimes than talking about alleles.

Doris at Danielson Farm near Uxbridge (Kathy) beautiful old cider press with wood made from chestnut.

Question from Judy re. Analysis of blight organisms – answers – hundreds have been catalogued, hardcored research into genetics.

Don’t know which genes provide resistance.

Discussions re. Science take place at National Meeting.