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* Autumn Meeting of the MA Chapter of the American Chestnut Foundation

* October 18, 2008 Minutes

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* Morning Orchard Meeting

10:24 am

Present:

Brad Smith, Bruce Spencer, Charlotte Zampini, Kathy Desjardin, Jamie Donalds, Rufin Van Bossuyt, Rich Hoffman, Lois Breault-Melican, Denis Melican, Richard Palmer, John Meiklejohn, Mike Novack, Brian Clark, Yvonne Federowicz

River Bend Replanting – done at night, irrigation put in. Only 14/100 had survived. Charlotte thinks that irrigation would have helped a lot. Also, some of nuts had been planted with stem facing down. Planting flat is best, avoids this problem. Ones at top had more trouble.

Planting had been done by multiple volunteers – so more training could be important in future. However having the volunteers was very helpful overall.

Lancaster

River Bend is a lovely spot, and having a good-looking orchard here would be very helpful.

Legg Farm has a few surviving seedlings; Boy Scout was supposed to do it but has not followed through. Difficult for DCR to follow through on all. Town did mowing once, but lots of cuts occurred.

Having an orchard manager is crucial.

Charlotte has not received data from anyone – please get out in the next few weeks to your orchard(s).

Kendra may get to Wrentham this Monday to check caliper measurements.

Rich Hoffman has F1s in his orchard – Charlotte asked if he would mind transplanting any for other orchards – he agreed he could

Brad: Tower Hill: 2 or 3 are “good” according to their resistance. Others will be kept as a demonstration orchard.

Charlotte – doing these in stages is good, we may not just test once. Can probably rogue out ones that are very bad.

WDC – mowing is tricky

Rufin: could rent a chipper if lots of trees are coming up at once. Tree spades are useful too.
Small stump grinder another option.

Jamie: Cutting down, persistent mowing another option.

Glocester: next spring need to get system in, for sure. Waiting on “buffalo” water tank.

Data:

Having two people makes it much faster: one measuring, one recording.

Sterling – Charlotte went to look at.

Conway is unknown.

Charlotte has data from most others.

Jamie: Weed whackers – still under debate.

Mike Novack – two types: handheld and push (can handle larger brush) – two-wheeled, 6hp or so
Unfortunately they are fairly heavy and large.

John Meiklejohn: has a string trimmer, but can put blades on it. It is light enough for easy use. The metal blades can handle anything that has grown up around his orchard in Granville.

Brush hog with metal blade.

Charlotte: some slopes are too steep for push devices

Jamie: some have multiple blade types, wheels that can be added

Jamie and Mike will look into equipment types. Balancing them on the user is important.

Mike was authorized to investigate these; however the largest manufacturer was changing its product line.

Jamie: please report on this by January so we can buy for next year.

Signage:

Lois needs one panel out of the three

Yvonne would like one for a single tree, also for the new South Kingstown orchard

John Meiklejohn will coordinate getting the orders together via the mailing list.

John M. - can they go on private property? A: Yes, definitely, we have several near orchards on private property already.

Jamie: we should always order +1 at least.

We need to be sure that the text is appropriate.

Can it be individualized? Not without adding to the price a lot...

However we could get all with same text with changes we want.

Daphne @ national TACF is person to contact about signage.

Rufin: West Bridgewater mother tree has died; could cut down and have sawed. Could get plaques or signs.

Rufin: 56”dbh white oak was about 125 yrs old, died and used for Old Ironsides

Timing: we will have a few lines able to produce nuts in a few years
We would need to watch out that these do not outproduce later tree lines. (Mike N.)
2010 for first lines. (National)
Rufin: National has an official statement on when things will be available.
Yvonne: is it on the web? (no one knows)

Highly resistant by 2015? Possible for MA trees – Charlotte
Flower is variable but Jamie got nuts after 4 years
Also Ashfield-H. got nuts after 4 years

Jamie: toured Moore State Park in July w/Denis & Lois. Lots of multiple trunks low on trees.
Fred talks about creating dominant leader by pinching off buds.
Should we try to do that? We need 2" dbh on one trunk.
Lots at Moore are double trunked

Jamie is thinking of rate of production of 2" stem. Mike thinks each stalk will be about the same size as a single would be.

Fred thought lower branches are contributing to growth of the tree.
Charlotte wished now she had removed some lower ones early, it's too late now for some.

Some may not "want" to have a single dominant leader.

Mike N. - has a line that has very Chinese leaves – so shape also can be more or less Chinese.

Various Chinese trees around are very straight and forest-like.

We will find out about Meadowview's latest successes next weekend.

Rufin: National issues
Board decided to move headquarters from Bennington to N.Carolina. U.S. Forest Service had a building, National now renting space in it. Asheville, NC.
Search for a CEO hasn't gone well so far. Interviewed lots of people, narrowed to four but then decided to look elsewhere. Saturday at Annual Mtg. will discuss. Marshall will be part-time CEO emeritus, will maintain relationships. Looking for development person.

11:55 broke for lunch.

Bruce Spencer: Rufin and Bruce put in 35 seedlings, 27 survived. Nuts with shelters on 3 sites:
1st site: had been field, then white pines, cut white pines, then chestnut nuts – shelters of several types.
51 seedlings of 66 nuts. !!
Up hill: east facing slope: put in 36 nuts, 17 seedlings. shelters. Bracken fern came up into shelters.
Same elevation, south facing, 43 nuts only 8 seedlings. Hotter spot though plenty of soil moisture.
Most there that survived were at base of the slope.

Earlier planting- one was very open to the south. Spot that had best luck – in a hollow.

South was pine and oak, other was hemlock and oak.

This year's soils were better. Blutex shelter seemed to help results too. No deer problems, plenty of other seedlings.

Mike N.: Fall planting experiments: can plant nuts pretty close.

Charlotte: Mike could use nuts from orchards near him and experiment with fall plantings.

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* Board Meeting 1:07 pm

Board Members Present:

Brad Smith, Bruce Spencer, Charlotte Zampini, Kathy Desjardin, Jamie Donalds, Rufin Van Bossuyt, Rich Hoffman, Lois Breault-Melican, Denis Melican, Mike Novack, Yvonne Federowicz, John Emory, John Mirick

Others Present: Richard Palmer, Brian Clark, John Meiklejohn, Kate Giorgi and son

Brad: moved that approve email minutes from last meeting second Charlotte; approved unanimously

Lois and Denis: intro to River Bend

Introductions

* Treasurer Report: Mike Novack

Passed out reports

Expenses are annual/seasonal; Mike says things not bad

Motion: approve treasurer's report (Brad) second (Bruce) approved unanimously

Orchard irrigation is a separate column

* Bylaws and Consecutive Terms

Options were talked about last July - 5 people would come up against the term limits

We need to decide today, then publicize 30 days before annual meeting – for voting there

Jamie: Motion: suspend term limit bylaws, send notice to everyone

Language from Bylaws:

Term of Office. Each director shall hold office for a term of two years until the second annual meeting of directors after his or her election and until his or her successor is elected and qualified, or until he or she sooner dies, resigns, is removed, or becomes disqualified. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the initial board of directors shall consist of a group of nine directors elected for one year and eight directors elected for two years as identified on the initial articles of organization of the corporation. Directors may serve for no more than four consecutive terms.

Decided to discuss bylaws later in meeting while John Mirick researched the documents

Funding for President going to National Meeting: we had agreed previously on a one-time basis

* MOTION: The Board authorizes the executive committee to use available funds to defray reasonable travel expenses for the President to attend the annual * meeting in Chattanooga, TN. John moved, Bruce seconded. Passed unanimously.

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Dave U.: board status

Rich Hoffman and Bruce Spencer could offer to bring him to meetings

Rufin: national removes people from board after two unexcused absences consecutively

We could include on ballot everyone who is willing to serve

Kathy will send a letter to Dave U.

MOTION: We will draft a letter to Dave, thank him for his service. Given his inability to attend regular board meetings he is not on the nomination slate for this year.. When that changes, we will be glad to consider him for board membership once again, and the letter will include contact information of people local to his area who could assist transportation.

Move: Jamie,second Bruce. Passed unanimously.

Rich and John Meiklejohn might be nearby, will check.

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* Motion: Slate, minus Dave U. will be as Yvonne passed out

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John M., second Bruce

passed unanimously

Term limits:

John Mirick: need to amend bylaws

Do we want to suspend this once, or for two years..?

John Meiklejohn: more important that officerships be rotated than that board membership be rotated

John Mirick: could consider moving to a 3-year board term

1/3 of new blood comes in every yr

* MOTION:

* Board votes to amend 4.2 of the Bylaws by adding the following phrase to the last sentence
“, provided that the Board for good cause may suspend the term limits for specific board members.”

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* Jamie. Seconded. Mike N. Passed unanimously

Order needed in Annual meeting:

Vote to suspend bylaw term limits

Vote to use that power to defer term limits for 5 members

(Vote to expand number of Board members by 1)

Then vote on board

State of MA only needed articles of organization. However we need to keep our bylaws updated in our records.

Secretary report: Kathy Desjardin. 392 members.

Kathy's hard drive failed. Then lost internet service.

Kathy had some things backed up. However certain data may have been lost.

Mike will bring Kathy a nice USB external hard drive – 160GB – at the annual meeting.

Trustees of Reservations have a new property, apparently there is a chestnut tree on someone's land that they say they got from us. Would like to put it on their land. Kathy will contact Cormiers – perhaps they gave the tree.

Kathy received a phone call from a forester Richard Johnson in Greenfield, a family there might wish to have an orchard.

Mike N. do we have any CT valley sites? -no

Is there a dedicated orchard manager available? Land helpful but have to have 10 year commitment from land and manager

Science teacher in Greenfield contacted Kathy – school there has trees Cormiers planted – could we move them?

Blackstone MA trees, might be Japanese hybrids. 25 years old. Three feet tall, look like F1s. Dwarf.

Jamie: Lexington resident was interested in our unknown heritage nuts from our older orchards? He got nuts this year, ended up in New Hampshire. Leila followed up. BC3s. She got a signed form from him. Germplasm agreements don't specify location. Charlotte would like to keep track of them. These were extra nuts, we probably didn't have room for them anywhere else.

Charlotte would strongly prefer to keep extra nuts from orchards for our reforestation planting experiments.

Save your open-pollinated nuts! Don't eat them. Put them in storage (fridge etc.) for next spring.

Brad: GWLT – Greater Worcester Land Trust - area – longhorn beetle – creating a lot of openings for plantings.

If you see any American trees producing nuts, we need Mother Trees for next year.

* ISA 2009 Providence

* Rufin: International Society of Arboriculture – next year is in Providence, RI – July or August. MA/CT/RI could all participate.

Mike N.- let's start up some trees potted up.

Event will run for 3-4 days, exhibit hall about 3 days.
We need to let them know soon.

Rufin will set that up.

Inoculation Reports: Fred and Kendra will come down this week, we should find out then.

* Pollination & Orchards 2008

Planted in Westerly RI
Dartmouth MA– Nanking nuts – seem to be ok
Glocester, RI
Stockbridge MA

Pollinated John Emery's' tree, Quabbin, Exeter RI, Smithfield Ri
74 and some Orleans at Lancaster -seedlings not establishing well
Exeter RI 108 nuts

Smithfield 18 nuts 22 burrs

Quabbin 32 nuts 67 burrs

Nuts: Lancaster

RI =>RI

Quabbin=>Dartmouth

* Rhode Island Issues

Kate Giorgi of RI NRCS arrived

Westerly, RI: Sarah now manager

Bruce Goodsell has passed away

Kate would like thank-you letter for NRCS

Signage - Gloucester Tree, others

Westerly fence area

South Kingstown LT - 1 or 2 sites?

Kate has seen

Water available

Master Gardeners!

Gloucester irrigation -

National Guard in RI – possible group to help look for RI Mother Trees

Charlotte: would need mother trees, planting would be after next year because don't have the nuts

Overall Nanking needs: getting a third line of resistance

Jamie: how many Nanking lines? Jamie – would like to move forward with seed orchards?

Charlotte: RI having more Nankings would be very good. Cohort rather than smattering

Jamie: lots of seed orchard work – need to partner with DCR – concerned about splitting our efforts

Mike N.: The 20 lines is to bring in added local diversity of American genes

Seed orchard can be in RI partly still

RI taking on Nankings thought to be good idea

Kate asked how they can help: we mentioned committed managers as a limiting factor; mother trees in RI also important

Brad: Annual Meeting – Paul, Kendra, other people will report

Paul may talk about genome project

Jamie: letter to DCR re. seed orchard at Moore w/John Mirick

Denis and Lois bought 5 copies of “Mighty Giants” and gifted them to the regional DCR directors. This went over well. The hope is to have multiple sympathetic people to our goals at various levels throughout the state.

Seed orchard could be at one of several spots in Moore.

Email issues: some new emails may have been lost with Kathy's hard drive crash – this is people who had contacted her after the Seedlings announcement.

Might Giants event this summer went well.

Arnold Arboretum director was very interested and would like to help in future

Next Meeting: possibly NEFF? Turner's Falls? River Bend? ? Mass Horticultural Society in Wellesley?
Lois & Denis will investigate

Tentative for spring will be Elm Bank in MA Horticultural Society

Winter Quarterly Meeting Date: January 18th Sunday

For Annual meeting: RECAP

Board votes to amend 4.2 of Bylaws by adding the following phrase to the last sentence
“, provided that the Board for good cause may suspend the term limits for specific board members.”

At Annual Meeting:

1 vote on amendment

2 vote to suspend for (list them)

3 Vote to expand board size by 1

4 vote of slated for board

ISA Conference in Providence: good time to get up-to-date presentation materials better set for local work

Meeting Closed at 3:58pm