

MA/RI-TACF Winter Quarterly Meeting Minutes

1/31/2016 Wachusett Meadow Audubon Sanctuary

Morning Orchard Managers Meeting

10:30am (approx.)

Present: Jamie Donald, Karen Brown, Brian Clark, John Emery, Rufin van Bossuyt, John Meiklejohn, Lois Melican, Denis Melican, Kathy Desjardin, Paul Wetzel, Michael Novack, Rich Hoffman, Josh Soojian, Mike Grames, Yvonne Federowicz, Mark Meehl, Dave Lent, Brad Smith, Kendra Collins

Plantings 2016

Brian Clark went over 2016 Planting projections documents

Final versions at end

36 new plots to be planted potentially (seeds) PLUS Bristol Agricultural High School seedlings;
Brian needs info re. Bristol Aggie BC3F2 lines from Yvonne

We have 10-11 plots additional of seeds for new orchard if available

What does SKLT need for Manton Grant (approx. 6 plots)

Brian went over Manton Budget; we have many needs so estimated expenses (minimum)

Possible new Superblock sites:

Norcross Sanctuary (not the same group as the Norcross Foundation)?

CT is going to plant on their land

Multiple blocks at Norcross with Graves with CT?

Norcross: we need a dedicated local orchard manager; they can help maintain but don't want to "own" the maintenance; Lois: knows a teacher in Wales (interns too far away) – town is very "green"

Jamie: need someone to enroll volunteers there, organize

Norcross appears to be best new seed orchard candidate

Lois will talk to Leslie; Jamie would like to participate

Mike Novack mentioned that a planting at Hawley could have the benefit of the Americorps Student Conservation Association (SCA) base office being close!

Orange – we have money for the fence (from the Norcross Foundation) but legal issues are key

SCA Americorps group cannot help in Rhode Island (we are working with a MA-only group)
May have Americorps move between orchards, east to west or west to east; directing them will be assisted by Lois, Denis, Jamie

Week 1: M-F; 3rd week of May? Weston by Monday afternoon (numerous possibilities for housing – John M., John E., Lois offered)

Training day – Sara F. has good planting manual

Westboro after

Heading west to Meiklejohn, Macleish, Springside Park 2nd week

We need to get schedule nailed down

Lois and Kendra can get educational materials to SCA before

Demo plantings

Wayside Inn experienced vandalism where trees were chopped off near base but trees will likely resprout.

We are low on seedling BC3F3s this year due to losses last summer.

Mutt nuts: Jim Gettens – perfect site for test planting

List of Demo Candidate Sites

Please get current list of Demo Sites to Kendra so can go into Database

Signage

Jamie has a good sign available – Westboro is a good destination

Phytophthora cinnamoni

Now killing chestnut in PA occasionally; members are alerted to watching for it. Contact Kendra if unsure – photos online help id the characteristic root nodules.

Pollinations 2016

Carver, Orleans – Rufin – Kendra says Jeff would like the most lead time possible

Brimfield – tornado zone had chestnut so now flowering

John Emery is taking Nanking lines: 1 this spring; can do 1 more.

Mudpacking:

Likely a good idea to help our BC3 selections' long-term survival; Mark and Dave did great work last fall

Technique – did whole trunk

Multiple orchards have selections that could use mudpacking assistance, incl. Jamie

We could do this after selections at each orchard systematically

12:30 adjourned for lunch

Afternoon Board Meeting

1:25pm

Present: Jamie Donald, Karen , Brian Clark, John Emery, Rufin van Bossuyt, John Meiklejohn, Lois Melican, Denis Melican, Kathy Desjardin, Paul Wetzal, Michael Novack, Rich Hoffman, Josh Soojian, Mike Grames, Yvonne Federowicz, Mark Meehl, Dave Lent, Brad Smith, Kendra Collins

Annual & Autumn Minutes accepted unanimously

Treasurer's Report: Mike Novack

Reimbursement reports were modified as year ended per National's check correction; our overall status improved last year more than previously reported. Mike will get a final 2015 ready soon.

We discussed methods of sharing the records.

He is burning them offsite; YF suggested the cloud

Please submit

Motion to accept Treasurer's report

Passed unanimously

Secretary's Report: Kathy Desjardin

Membership slightly up to 290

Kendra mentioned National's year-end campaign did well and will help chapters too

Mike Berri would like to do a planting; West Brookfield; Lois will follow up

(Forest Planting)

Mark Meehl has contact with his town's forestry committee – land available; neighborhood is very interested.

Lois/Yvonne suggested Mark work on GPA with town officials

Kathy working on SCA Americorps funding options with various contacts

Teacher, Jessie Green – (Wales/Brimfield area) interested in starting program to plant chestnuts, develop a course that includes planting chestnuts

Land near Basspro & Patriots Stadium – chestnuts everywhere – we could put an interpretive sign

B3F3s in pots have had mortality this year! Both ours and Kendra's – but in future let's pursue

Motion to Accept Secretary's Report

Unanimously accepted

Communications Report: Yvonne Federowicz

MA/RI-TACF Strategic Plan shared – work done on 1/11/16

Notify: Josh Soojian, Yvonne Federowicz, Lois Breault-Melican, Denis Melican, Brad Smith, Kathy Desjardin, Mike Grames, Brian Clark, Jamie Donald

Share Google Doc w/above

YF reviewed Phytophthora cinnimoni disease -- newly present in PA

Motion to Accept Communications Report

Communications report passed unanimously

Orchard Report: Brian Clark

Most covered in morning

Brian trying to create new data sheet for Boyleston

Get Kendra your tree report forms if you have data for her!

John Meiklejohn: went to visit orchard at: Worthington
original orchard of 113 trees, one line, is gone
something else has been planted there; owners unclear on what happened

Motion to Accept Orchard Manager's Report:
Orchard Manager's Report accepted unanimously

No news on the Asian Longhorn Beetle testing results yet...

SCA Americorps 2016

We have the SCA Massachusetts group reserved for 10 days in 2016: cost is \$7500; we are still somewhat short – please donate!

Send donations to Michael Novack payable to MA Chapter of TACF, note in check's comment line that it is the SCA fund

(Later note from YF/Lois: National's website now has this SCA work as a specifically fundable item on their donations site, so you can use that)

If annual donation is over \$250 – send to TACF – there will need a letter of acknowledgement for taxes that has specific details they can handle more easily

Treasurer – best to keep SCA as a separate account in MA/RI finances so we're very aware of our status with covering it, can keep working on it

Signage

Single-post sign very useful

Orchard equipment needed

Refrigerators – quite full currently

Kendra has very good storage capacity

Jamie maxed out; John Emery maxed out

Jamie will host a second. Fridge w/no freezer.

33-35 degrees good temp for seed storage

Josh mentioned that an external unit can cause a freezer to run only 2 minutes per hour, shut off when temp near freezing; tricky to set up?

Jamie's pole pruner is up a tree and he cannot reach it
:-)

Orchard ladders

Rufin has 12'

Jamie has 15'

John Meiklejohn 14'

Brian 16'

John Emery 18'

Stuewe pots: Brian Roth in Maine would like to share shipping costs

How many do we need? Which size

Please count your current pots

B3F3s Demo – should come in March; Jeff may send tiny seedlings

Karen will help with outreach

Jamie – if someone wants Demo, we need to be sure that the site manager/group be a member, do GPA, and have a sign – these seeds are not just “goodwill” gifts – our Chapter needs to also focus on PR

We formerly had done this setup, we had list and criteria applicants needed to meet

(this is in old minutes, Yvonne should research)

Jamie wants signage to be important

If people want nuts from Chapter and our efforts to plant etc., we need to be sure it benefits our mission

MOTION: Jamie put forward a required minimum \$75 donation to MA/RI-TACF for talks. This donation can be adjusted at the speaker's discretion, if it serves the purposes and goals of the Chapter. Speaker can be reimbursed for travel expenses.

Passed unanimously.

Outreach: TACF has “Mailchimp” – we could use; Lois will put that on back burner until we see what new Wordpress site can do

2016 Calendar

Listing of events in Agenda

2016 CALENDAR

TACF Meetings

- o APRIL 8/9 - National Spring Conference, Abingdon VA

MA/RI & National TACF Events

o MARCH

URI-MGA Spring Symposium (Kingston, RI -- Yvonne) 3/5

o APRIL

APRIL 8/9 - National Spring Conference, Abingdon VA

MA/RI Board Meeting 4/16

o MAY

SCA AmeriCorps – last 2 weeks

Bristol Aggie Spring Expo (Yvonne) - date TBD

o JUNE

MassWildlife Presentation 6/4 evening

o JULY

MA/RI-TACF Board meeting 7/31

o SEPTEMBER

Big MOE 9/18

Garlic & Arts 9/24 -- 9/25

o OCTOBER

Fryeburg Fair in Maine 10/2 – 10/9
Ashfield Fall Festival 10/10 -- 10/11
MA/RI-TACF Autumn Meeting 10/29

o NOVEMBER

National Fall Meeting, Louisville KY

o DECEMBER

MA/RI-TACF Annual Meeting 12/3

Numerous events are during harvest season

Kendra: putting events in Google Calendar would help keep us up-to-date

3:40 Meeting adjourned