

MA/RI-TACF 7-18-2015 Morning Orchard Meeting Minutes DRAFT

Board members present: Brian Clark, Paul Wetzel, Jim Garland, John Emery, Jamie Donalds, Rufin van Bossuyt, Mike Novack, Denis Melican, Lois Melican, Josh Soojian, Rich Hoffman, Kathy Desjardin, Yvonne Federowicz

Guests: Mike Grames, Kendra Gurney, Clinton Racine

Orchard Discussion

Making seed orchards easier to install & maintain

SUPERBLOCK approach – 5 blocks, somewhat different arrangement/numbering and statistics work out so that it's likely more efficient in various ways. (Mike N. has details)

SCA Student Conservation Association – same as Americorps in Massachusetts – could help with getting a “superblock” in Hawley (they have a base there)

Getting a long-term commitment would be important (Lois)

Can SCA person attend regional meeting? Kendra would like.

Doing a big planting would be a huge up-front effort, then a continuing large effort

What about mudpacking our BC3 selections right after final selecting is done? (Yvonne)

Many of peoples' selections are dying before all plots from them are planted. John Emery down to 3 of 4.

Americorps has staff that can manage long-term...

Orchard manual/management plan (Kendra) – in Maine she has put together a calendar-type setup – what to do at what time of year

Superblocks:

Mike passed out sheet: plot size of 450

Plot size vs. number of trees to be kept

In 450 much more likely to get 5 than in 5 plots of 150

Spacing... in sheet.

Fred would move trees between blocks in past if there was a local surplus of alleles

Mudpacking

John Emery & Yvonne have had some good experience; other trees (Rufin) have died soon in spite of the treatment. Cankers can have fungus tendrils under the bark feet away.... mudpacks need to extend away from canker

Proposal: Michael will send to Kendra who will convey to Jerod; he will likely be at Regional Meeting

Kendra: Marker-assisted tech may be soon!!!

Kendra: we might try 2-block orchards instead of 1-block

Brian: most landowners seem to stop at the 1 acre

Lois & Denis will communicate with the Americorps people
Brian: financing is another related issue
3 blocks in 5 acres. More fabric, spacing, less relative fence

Current model: \$4/tree

Mike's model: \$4/tree but effectively 5 blocks worth of trees in 3 blocks, so significant savings

Guest: Clinton Racine (owns a farm)

Fractaltribe – community of people willing to donate time. Team of people that might be able to help.

Orchard maintenance can be planned more in advance than
\$41,000 for a SUPERBLOCK to get established. 3000 trees. Just to establish.
National can help with that.

We have numerous land possibilities but the issues with volunteers is that we need to make personal connections, get to know them, appreciate their interests and abilities, support their interest in our work long-term. Will you as MA/RI-TACF person feel motivated long-term to stay closely in touch with this group? Do you like their mission too?

(Yvonne is doing that w/URI-MGA)

If we get everything else in place Jamie Donalds has promised he will go out and ask for money.

Clapper (Selections) BC3 trees are declining in many cases, after selection and roguing but before we have all the Plots in each Block planted for those selections... Resprouts may take years to come up.

(Kendra et al. like to leave several possible trees per line for this reason.)

Norcross is working on a site for us.

CT has one they are helping with possibly; they would like to help each (New England?) chapter

Getting more volunteers is an issue; Lois is giving more presentations soon

Maine's email blast service is working well. Brian Roth in Maine is a good contact.

Kendra: model with URI Master Gardeners – tap into local organizations that have a good network.

Fish & Game Clubs.

Research Orchards – status

Sterling: 1 tree in 1 line, several in other (Graves)

Rogued trees have resprouted.

Stockbridge needs roguing done.

Jamie's crew could help with it.

Craig difficult to get ahold of – phone best

Demo trees

some are producing nuts – we don't need to manage; they are covered by GPA; can be planted near parent, eaten, etc.

- Green Hill Park needs replacements
- Foster's planting will be in a few days; YF will get seedlings to Roy
Jim Garland may offer viewing of his orchard to Foster Town people involved in Foster planting
- Tanglewood/Kripalu would be interested in Demo chestnuts
- Norport Aggie in Walpole is interested in a planting.

Orchards for next year: potential new sites...

- Orange
- Norcross
- Walkers
- More needed

Afternoon Board Meeting

Board members present: Brian Clark, Paul Wetzel, Jim Garland, John Emery, Jamie Donalds, Rufin van Bossuyt, Mike Novack, Denis Melican, Lois Melican, Josh Soojian, Rich Hoffman, Kathy Desjardin, Yvonne Federowicz, Brad Smith

Guests: Mike Grames, Kendra Gurney, Clinton Racine

Also present: Mike Meehl, Dave L.

Jim Garland left

Motion to accept Spring Meeting minutes

Passed Unanimously

Treasurer's Report Michael Novack

We have a positive balance so far. Numerous receipts not yet

Bank error of \$0.20!!!

Motion to ignore the twenty cent bank error was unanimously approved.

T-shirts: guest Clinton Racine has possible contacts for different shirts

Motion to accept treasurers report

Passed unanimously

Secretary's Report Kathy

290 members, approx. constant

Brochures: delay in getting from National
they are working on new ones

Ed will get table in Old Home Days in Foster, RI -- Roy working with

Certificates of membership::

Member of MA Land Trust

ECRI? Yvonne will look into benefits

Time to renew

Booths at events possible

RI Land & Water vs. ECRI – which is better for us? Ask Roy Najecki

Motion to accept Secretary's Report

Passed unanimously

Orchard Report (Brian C.)

Brian passed out report of orchards

Kendra having trouble with MA data – getting the info – asked Jamie to help

2016 Inoculations:

Princeton

Uxbridge?

Foster, RI?

Glocester RI is a difficult site, has ledge under orchard.

7 new orchards being harvested next year

How do we rip out BC3F2s when roguing? Cannot use herbicide

Big rocks or trash cans over regrowth can help stop resprouting

Communications Report (Yvonne)

National contracting with <http://integritive.com> to redo their website; chapters can have a website piggybacked onto this due to the technology (WordPress Multisite)

Our masschestnutorchards/news web listserves are what our current host cannot easily continue after upgrading his system.

Yvonne will inquire if someone else can host our listserver temporarily.

Lois discussed the **TACF Chapter Annual Report due 7/31/15** and everyone worked to include events, plantings, harvest numbers. Yvonne mentioned the excellent Dighton/Bristol Aggie events this spring as possible addition.

Motion: (Michael): authorize exec committee to approve up to \$500 to find interim list server host site

passed unanimously

Motion: New site: include RI: MA-RI name in new site

passed unanimously

Motion: we tentatively agree to piggyback on National's multisite Wordpress for our site

passed unanimously

Legal issues:

Mirick Letter has been finished; will mail. We need the Orange site to move forward.

Nominations Committee

Board Composition:

Joshua Soojian is now a Board Member

Jamie: we are down 1 person from max; down 2 at end of year. Maybe 3. Will look at with Nomination Committee of Rufin & Yvonne

Ann is visiting around 8/4. Dinner hoped for with her by all.

Nominations Committee will take care of nomination list development

Internship: better name for current position

Kendra: our usage has been more like contractor-on-demand

Maine had a northern ME one

If full time, hard to know what to have them do

Hourly employees cannot volunteer for organization

Duke – Stanback internship. Providing housing etc. helps.

Rich still available

Public Outreach

How many presentations can we reasonably do?

Jamie: we should say “no” in the middle of pollination

Strategy in clarifying message: current lacks slides for volunteer recruitment
Bringing it to a local level
Anne Bobigian's old Powerpoints
Mike is willing
Automated powerpoint
Lois: needs to be for kids too
Photos of trees
Website:

What do we need: someone to manage our public outreach? A board member who wants to do that more?

Upcoming Events:

Garlic & Arts: September
State Town Forest event September 27th – same weekend as Garlic & Arts
September: MA Foresters Association meeting

Yvonne described Bristol Aggie/Dighton government/commission work to Board.
Brad Smith asked:
Bristol Aggie: can they give a report to our Annual Meeting?
Raffle: carrot for updating email is being entered in raffle to win a BC3F3.

MA F&W signage: needs mount designed for signage. We worked on wording.
We need places that can just quickly provide a sign when we want to order it. (Jamie)
Also signage; small roof kiosk.

Lisa Thompson is coming for the Horticultural Society Award. Can we work in a dedication ceremony at F&W? May be difficult; her schedule is very tight...
Bill Davis might want to wait on the dedication however.

Communications at main office should be CC'd to Wendy Wilson

T-Shirts: Denis & Lois brought in our nice new t-shirts with MA/RI-TACF on them.
Fabric is green. Many were bought.

Most T-shirts go for around \$20 these days.
If we are going to fundraise with shirts, we need to more carefully track them; have a policy on donating or giving to volunteers. First-in-first-out.
Lois' goal in t-shirts is to thank volunteers. We could use it to get more members.
National staff used to pay 10% over cost...
Lengthy discussion of how to use shirts, different ideas.

Decision: we will sell some, for \$20.

Volunteer Service Award T-Shirt

Volunteers who are solid (not Board Members, \$10) might get one? Orchard managers

Denis & Lois will be T-Shirt Committee for service awards

They will keep track of inventory

Annual Meeting Planning

MA F&W might be very nice for location – Rufin will try to get

Brad will coordinate again! Thank you Brad.

Date is just before holidays

Possibly Nov. 21st. Will check location availability.

Keynote speaker possibilities: NOFA – permaculture? Lois has contact

Lisa Thompson?

Jerod Westbrook?

Author of “Reading the Forested Landscape”?

Brian Roth at Maine? Does flyovers, plantings

Yvonne needs to confirm RI SKLT location in building for Autumn meeting

Strategic Planning Committee

August 16 Sunday at Lois & Denis' house 1pm

Meeting adjourned at 3:53