

MA/RI-TACF Autumn 2019 Quarterly Meeting
MacLeish Field Station, 78 Poplar Hill Rd, South Deerfield, MA 01373
Sunday, 11/03/2019 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Board Members Present Kathy Desjardin, Jamie Donalds, John Meiklejohn, Rufin Van Bossuyt, Paul Wetzel, Brian Clark, Karen Jones, Brad Smith, Mike Novack, Rich Hoffman, Yvonne Federowicz

Members and Guests Present Dave Lent, Thomas Bertorelli, Julie Pelletier, Jim Pelletier, Ray Diaz, Douglas Miner, Emily Monosson, Tyler Payne

President's Welcome Jamie Donalds

Jamie introduced BOD, chapter members and guests.

Initiated discussion of the structure and length of quarterly meetings and lunchtime, expressed concern that they do not allow enough time for attendees to communicate informally. Secretary read from the minutes of the 2018 Summer Quarterly Meeting when the BOD voted unanimously to change the format of quarterly meetings to an all day Board meeting from 10 AM to 3 PM, separated by a working 30 minute lunchtime, thus eliminating the Growers session in the morning to avoid duplicate reporting and to shortening the entire meeting.

ACTION The issue of informal communications among attendees during quarterly meeting will be addressed in the future, as needed.

Treasurer Report Michael Novack

Treasurer presented a written report and responded to questions.

During discussion of revenue discussed issue of honoraria for invited presentations by Chapter representatives. Need to determine how much to request or accept as honoraria with consideration of presenter's time and the value of the opportunity to promote the work of the chapter. Discussed policies of other organizations. **NO ACTION**

Discussed Chapter's inventory of T-shirts which are used to reward volunteer activity.

NO ACTION

Discussed concept of providing membership scholarships which may be useful to encourage, and promote further engagement from, volunteers.

ACTION *Motion* To establish a Restricted Fund of \$400 to cover the cost of scholarships for need-based memberships, to be determined on a case-by-case basis and approved by the Executive Committee. Motion was passed unanimously.

ACTION *Motion* To accept the Treasurer's Report. Motion was passed unanimously

Additional business of the Treasurer.

Discussion of transition of Treasurer's position from Michael Novack to Paul Wetzel: need for a new bank signature card, state documents, consideration of Chapter Bylaws and complications attendant to changing banks at the same time.

ACTION *Motion* To authorize Paul Wetzel to open a new account at Florence Savings Bank on behalf of the chapter with signatories on the account: Mike N., Paul W., Kathy D., Jamie D. Motion passed unanimously.

Budget Committee Brian, Michael, Jamie

Discussed the Manton Grant and budget ramifications. **NO ACTION**

Introduction of members and guests

Jim and Julie Pelletier -- guests. Jim manages Pittsfield seed orchard.

Douglas Miner, guest, is interested in planting Chestnut trees on his land in Sandersfield, MA. He has spoken with Brian and met with John M.

ACTION John M will visit Mr. Miner's property and provide assistance..

ACTION Kathy will send Mr. Miner information about Tantasqua

Secretary Report: Kathy Desjardin

Membership: 287, up slightly from 278.

Discussed financial donations:

ACTION Kathy will contact TACF regarding Organizational Memberships

Discussed social media formats: Twitter, Facebook, website and linking them and strategies for increasing Chapter use of them..

ACTION Kathy will send links from website and Facebook to Brad for use on Twitter

Discussed the Chapter Activities Report.

ACTION Kathy will send the current report to BOD and offer assistance to members of the BOD who have difficulty contributing to the report.

Discussed chapter communications between meetings.

ACTION Kathy distributed current address list and posted it on MA/RI website "Board Members Only" page. BOD members to contact Kathy for assistance

Announcements: Chapter received complimentary copy of "Voices of the Earth - The Future of our Planet." Curt Laffin is doing a presentation on November 18, 2019 at Lancaster Library

Discussed design and distribution of postcard invitations for Annual Meeting. Kathy circulated sign up sheet for chestnut potluck..

ACTION Kathy will mail postcards to chapter members and other interested individuals.

Discussed public inquiries regarding chestnut tree availability..

ACTION Kathy will consult with Kendra and others to address the possibility of replacement demonstration plantings in Stockbridge, Sturbridge. Wayside Inn replacement of two vandalized trees was completed last year. Should we consider signage there.

Orchard Report -- Brian Clark

Brian distributed Excel spreadsheets and explained the contents; enumerated work to be done in various orchards including leaf collection, nuts available, inoculation plans and problems with tree survival at Westboro in a wet area at the lower elevation of hillside. Outlined TACFs expectations of MARI

ACTION Norfork needs irrigation system hooked up, Jamie will pot AD Littleton seeds, leaf collections to be done in orchards during the spring.

Guest: Emily Monosson

Paul Wetzel introduced author, Emily Monosson, who works on fungal pathogens. Ms. Monosson explained her interest in knowing why people are motivated to save the American chestnut tree and was encouraged to speak with Chapter members.

Communications Report - Yvonne Federowicz

Yvonne provided a summary of TACF Annual Meeting in Gettysburg (in notebook)

ACTION Yvonne will request Gettysburg powerpoint presentations from TACF

Planning for Annual Meeting

Discussed plans for the annual meeting, including speakers, informational material, chestnut potluck luncheon, the need for an electric kettle for hot water, signage, publicity

ACTION Karen will contact Tim to ensure that he will attend and make a short presentation with 10 slides about his work with chestnuts and contact Lisa to enlist her assistance with plans related to Tim's attendance.

ACTION Kathy will create an online sign up page for people to list contributions for chestnut potluck luncheon and bring copies of chapter policy on GMO trees to annual meeting.

ACTION Jamie will invite Kendra to do a briefing on GMO trees and arrange for the presentation of a Volunteer of the Year Award to Tim.

ACTION *Motion* Karen is authorized to spend \$60 or less for an electric kettle for use at the annual meeting and other chapter events. Motion passed unanimously.

ACTION *Motion* To authorize the use of \$60 for portable electric kettle for tea water. Approved unanimously.

ACTION Brad will submit meeting notices to local newspapers.

Nomination Committee Report John Meiklejohn

John distributed a draft ballot for the Board of Directors.

ACTION *Motion* To approve the draft ballot for BOD elections on December 7, 2019 Motion passed unanimously.

ACTION *Motion* To create a new position, Vice President of Scientific Planning, to be filled at the annual meeting on 12/7/19. Motion passed unanimously.

ACTION Jamie and Brad will write a paragraph to define the position.

Old Business

Signage

The purchase of orchard signs for MassWildlife & Norfolk was approved and money allocated during summer meeting. Bill Davis & Lisa Collins are authorized to place an order, once language is approved. Discussed signage and trees at various locations. Old Sturbridge Village does not have a sign, could use sign stand that is stored in Westborough, if a sign is desired there. River Bend Farm Orchard is more of a Demo Planting with old panel signs, which could be updated. Smolak Farm in Andover had old panel signs. Need to check condition of trees there. A weather-resistant sticker with QR Code, logo, and website is needed for use at all MA/RI orchards and demo plantings.

ACTION Jamie and Yvonne will create a QR code and develop a weather-resistant sticker.

GMO Trees

Discussed whether GMO issues are affecting chapter membership. **NO ACTION**

Business cards

Discussed the need for professional cards for directors.

ACTION Yvonne will send Jamie the Staples template for business cards and Julie Pelletier will share details of the process she uses to create business cards.

