

MA/RI-TACF Winter Meeting 2/17/2019

Wachusett Meadow Audubon
113 Goodnow Road, Princeton MA
10:00 am

Board Members Present: Michael Novack, Jamie Donalds, John Meiklejohn, Yvonne Federowicz, Brian Clark, Mike Meixsell, Kathy Desjardin, Karen Jones, Brad Smith, Paul Wetzel, Rufin Van Bossuyt, Mike Grames, John Emery, Gray Curtis, Rich Hoffman, Josh Soojian

Guests: Tim Seale, Dave Lent, Mark Meehl, Bill Davis
James Hill, Chris Bowe (North Andover)

Kendra Collins via phone conferencing

Secretary Report – Kathy Desjardin

Communicate to Lois whenever there are activities and presentations
Can get onto FB
Putting things on new website
Kathy put out a new Board Address/Email list – please use the most recent ones!

March 3 Science Meeting

March 13th URI Volunteer sign-up

March 30th Arnold Arboretum Event:

April 18th Hampton Garden Club

June 25 - Donker Farm in Worcester, MA – family has long history in area!

Arbor Day – RI school would like demo trees - Yvonne to remind Kendra – trees already leafing out at Kendra's

March 30th event – are other chapters going to help with finances?

Lisa T. sent a draft flyer; Arnold Arboretum is sending out a flyer

Communicating on short notice to people can be difficult

Work on list of chapter members and potential volunteers within reasonable distances of each orchard into email lists of each group to notify them of orchard needs

Rewards Volunteer site – registering hours from this meeting today is easy online (Karen)
They send us reports, Excel spreadsheet 1000 hours

Treasurer Report Michael Novack

2018 No Manton money so different totals. Approx. \$4k loss for year due to no Manton grant.

Checking account fluctuated; if below 3K we get service charge. Could rebalance accounts
990 is coming up. Whole dollar

Printing and postage separate.

Motion to accept Treasurers Report accepted unanimously.

We need a backup for treasurer!!!

Planting supply expenses

Orchard Report: Brian Clark

Some purchases needed before April 1st. Cannot be done with Manton.

We are hoping for a 1-year Manton grant. --Kendra

Regional Support is our goal.

Grant cycle of 1 or 2 years? - Jamie

Brian: Graves SSA experiment. Wants to move to a larger pot. Holds about 2.5 as much soil. Lets seedling get larger. Larger before and after inoculation could be better.

Stuewes 4x4x9. Not as tall but wider.

Will save a lot of manual work with the SSA; before, Brian had to pull seedlings out of small mesh, work on, then put back in. This way they can be left in.

6 plots worth of Graves seeds, then cull down for planting – 50 trees.

3 times spacing in rows!

This is to eliminate the 2/3 of worst ones. By time top of tree has died, tree has started putting out shoots below inoculation. By planting time, we hope the survivors will have blight-free stems (new ones?)

Potting for SSA: less than 1000 – can Brian get assistants? It would be training for them.

Kendra posted her internship and included working on western MA SSA.

Kathy will send Karen info about signups

Michael Novack would like to help

Westboro: erosion – heavy rain, no snow at times. Ruffin

Motion: Brian to use pre-Manton chapter funding for up to \$1500 for SSA materials and other planting materials.

Passed unanimously.

Motion: Authorize Brian to spend up to \$5000 on planting supplies that can be reimbursed by the Manton Grant after April 1st 2019, contingent upon receiving the Manton funding.

Manton Foundation meets around April 1st so we will learn of receipt approx. at that time.

Passed unanimously

Brian has handouts re. Harvest.

3 new plots Westboro (not quite done)

2 new pots Weston and replacements

Graves new orchard Norfolk – seeds for 7 plots. Lisa would like the planting to stretch out some so more years of students can be involved. Students have Medway seedlings and Bristol Aggie potted seedlings for 2-3 more.

Michael N. – Nanking at Norfolk too?

Granville – 2 new plots.

Inoculations – lots at Pittsfield!

What about Smith and South Kingstown?

SKLT needs CN replacements

Kendra – Science coordinator update

Can we pull out inoculation ratings data and compare to Meadowview? Kendra is almost done with Maine and would like to do ours next.

Communications Report - Yvonne

National TACF spring meeting

April 4-5, 2019

WordPress plugins that can help us communicate plus preserve our decisions about orchard issues.

We had Masschestnutorchards and news before moving our website in conjunction with National's.

Test instance of bbpress -- Yvonne to create, demo for chapter

Will it save Chapter members time?

Michael N. – most moderators have an interest in particular issues that have separate forums. There are different potential setups.

Visibility of forum?

Settings of forum

Most let you make choices

Can see topics, see recent posts

John M. as an orchard manager – a forum isn't something he is likely to use

Michael – concrete example needed

Brian – we had active orchard managers back then? But he'd like a way to talk about orchards

Rufin – various Great Britain trees having trouble – using TACF as a model

Mark has nice wild American seeds and logs.

MA/RI-TACF Science Discussion

10:30 March 3rd John Emery's house

37 Atkinson Lane, Sudbury, MA 01776

John Emery – offered his place for a location – Sudbury, MA; can put Kendra up

Lois is ok with March 3rd

More than 10 people plan to attend thru raising of hands just now

10:30am start time allows John to participate better

Might last 2 hours

Answer questions from Jared, then have general discussion

Have Polycom there in case weather bad for Kendra

Arnold Arboretum Chestnut Talk

Speakers at Arnold will include Sara F., Lisa, Jared, Powell

March 30th – information

Please get funds to National if you offered to help support this.

Public perception

Survey letter re. Science questions for our cooperators and members.

Kendra – at our fall meeting, Karen, Lois, Kathy

Draft of that letter is sitting in front of us here at meeting. Kendra feels it's important.

Final version to be approved at MA/RI spring meeting 4/23

Kendra: the Arnold talks are not mostly about GMO issues.

Maine is trying to put a panel together about different sides of the GMO debate

Kendra – please send us info on the Maine talks

Jamie – space for everyone to speak can help us make best decisions going forward

There was a discussion on Board members' positions re. Science issues involved in the March 3rd meeting.

Motion re. minutes: make this a general note without individuals' names

Passed unanimously

Williamstown Rural Lands GCO

We might need additional Americans too

How public do we want this orchard?

Brian, Mark, Kendra involved

Site inspection done

Planned for this spring

Need more info from Lois re. Agenda item re. Williamstown

Major article upcoming in TACF Journal – no red tape involved in GCO orchards

Stockbridge orchard – Craig Moffitt wants to know what to do about, but isn't owner

Stockbridge: John M. is collaborating with a middle school teacher – Jamie has a set of 3 panels

MA/RI-TACF Spring Meeting

April 28th Sunday.

Meeting place for Spring Meeting:

Proposed meeting site... Tim is offering Norfolk Aggie! Weekend date not a problem. Will confirm this week

400 Main St. Walpole, MA

Kids want to do the work!

OSV and a Charter School – Mike G. – spin off from Tantasqua Chestnut Project; Lois gave a Sturbridge presentation last fall that started this

Monson Library and Monson Tree Committee trials on Mt. Ella. Students designing restoration planting trials!

Brad: chestnut restoration glossary... trying to get the terminology correct. Also names. Who are these people?

150 terms! Came up during the Strategic Plan

“Fred”, “SUNY”, “Charlotte”, “leaf hairs”, “ep155”...

This will help us be more inclusive! Available online. Also will help us preserve our institutional history.

The Board is enthusiastic about Brad's project!

Karen: we need to meet the comfort needs of volunteers. We can get a little canopy that gives privacy. Small organic toilet, if no facilities. Karen will send info.

Karen will do research on regulations, present in April.

Chestnut wood in Rufin's barn... is in Brian's truck. West Bridgewater tree.

We could sell this. It is a good resource, we have used some for plaques

For next meeting:

Rufin's chestnut wood: sell on Ebay?

Pittsfield – use some of chestnut wood for kiosk for Bob P.
Date? Kathy to get a date set.

Bill Davis will ask about having a meeting at Westboro – Lois has asked Marion; Bill can also ask her,
will copy Lois
Logistical issues re. Having a weekend meeting w/staff

Masswildlife – Sign there is a general one... use mount that Jamie purchased?
Dedication – October -- Marion in touch with Kathy

Signs – on agenda for April!

Please correct this list!!! -- Yvonne

Research orchards... ID which ones we want signage at.

Jamie believes we have a list of orchards for which we want a single-panel sign

Ashfield - Brian

Moore? -- ask Lois - sign

Medway -- single panel

NEFF -- needs QR code

Riverbend -- QR code

Stirling -- no

Dartmouth -- no

SKLT seed orchard - single panel sign

Lunenburg -- Jamie

Quabbin -- Ask Bruce -- Kendra -- inoculation soon

Princeton -- QR code

Wachusett Meadow - QR code

Lincoln -- new signs, single panel

Wayland - no

Weston - single panel needed

West Boylton -- Graves -- QR code

Westerly -- QR code?

Foster RI -- 1 good line Clapper, not enough trees

Glocester RI -- Clapper ? - no

Granville - QR

Tantasqua - single or 3 panel sign -- ask Lois

Westboro - sign is up but mount needs help; single panels on other sides? 2 signs

Kendra: sign producer is being renegotiated; refurbishing. Website will be updated.

1 & 3 panel signs.

1 panel has a line that can be customized

3 panel has section that can be customized

National's sign updates should be ready by our Spring Mtg

QR code that leads to TACF

One code that goes to MA/RI-TACF website! Much more doable.

What needs signs?

Laminated? Sticker?

QR outdoor labels

Kathy will send us a QR code

Jamie and Yvonne will bring some waterproof labels to next meeting w/QR codes

Kathy – getting lists of people near each orchard

Jamie has list of people who helped harvest near Littleton last year; they are eager to do more

John used regular mail to recruit people

Jamie would like list of people near Westboro and surrounding

Bill Davis:

Tuesday: **meeting of MA Conservation Alliance** -- trying to become umbrella organization

Incl. sportsmen and MA Audubon -- groups that don't always see eye to eye but can have lots of common ground. Bill will attend, thinks chestnuts very relevant. Will report back to us.

Motion: approve minutes from last meeting -

Approved unanimously

Meeting adjourned 2:57pm