



The American Chestnut Foundation Vermont/New Hampshire Chapter
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Zoom Conference call, Tuesday, October 27, 2020, 7:00 – ~8:15 PM

Board members (virtually) present: Douglas McLane (President), Curtis Laffin (VP), Daane Crook (Treasurer), Bill Coder (Secretary), Yurij Bihun, Gary Hawley, Dr. Ann Hazelrigg, James P. Powers, Dr. James Talbot, William Widmer, Jessica Wikle (Fellow)

TACF Staff present: Kendra Collins, Regional Science Coordinator

Members Dr. Gillian Galford, and Terry Gulick were not participating.

1. Approval of minutes of August 13, 2020 meeting

Minutes being circulated for approval have been amended from those distributed on 9/3/20. Change bars highlight the following small updates:

- the location of the VT GCO in section 8 has been amended
- an action from the last sentence of section 5 was incorporated into the Follow-up / Action Item heading at the end of the document.

Upon a motion made by Curt and seconded by Gary, minutes were unanimously approved.

2. Review of Treasurer's Report

Since August 7, 2020 Treasurer's Report there has been income of \$1,280, expenses of \$850. After a transfer of \$2,500 from checking account to savings account, the checking account balance as of October 20 was \$4,121.10, and the total of all accounts is \$25,295.23.

Daane also noted that \$4000 we requested from the Manton Grant needs to be spent by the end of March 2021. Orchard or educational planting expenses are eligible. Kendra noted that it is preferable to have the funds allocated by January as that will support the application process for 2021.

Yurij asked that there be some accounting of income derived from sales of salvaged tree lumber. Daane and Yurij will look into tracking that income.

Due to an oversight, there was no motion made in the meeting to accept the Treasurer's Report.

3. Committee structure and reporting process

Prior to the board meeting Curt had distributed to the board via email a document titled Proposed VT/NH Chapter Committee Structure, and Membership, October 27, 2020. As part of that email chain Curt and Doug accepted an amendment that Kendra made to strike the end of last sentence under Orchard Coordination: “~~who is ultimately responsible for our Chapter Specific Science Plan.~~”

Curt proposed that the board vote to accept the committee structure (as amended per the previous paragraph), but not vote on the specifics of who is on or who chairs each committee. Doug offered a motion to accept the committee structure. It was seconded by Ann (and others), and approved unanimously.

Doug noted that the chair persons for the committees may potentially be modified by the committees. Curt plans to notify the chapter’s membership that they are welcome to participate.

The meeting agenda captured a process of committee chairs providing written quarterly activity reports that the VP would summarize and distribute to the full board. Bill C. suggested benefits of archiving these reports, with one possibility being an enhancement to the chapter web site. Kendra noted that sharable document storage is a need across chapters which she has conveyed to Jules Smith who oversees the web tools at ACF national office. Bill C. noted that committee activity reports could facilitate filling out a spreadsheet that National requests from each chapter annually to reflect certain chapter activities, especially for outreach and orchard work. Key information needed includes the number of participants in an event, and the number of trees planted, if applicable.

4. Nut Harvest Update

Kendra summarized nut harvest from within VT and NH, which for the first time includes transgenic pollination crossings. She fielded several questions and provided an updated report which included some late arriving data. The report also included Tom Klak’s harvest report of 1500+ from the Maine mother tree work, pertinent to the next topic.

5. Proposal for the VT/NH Chapter to contribute to the transgenic pollination project at Cape Elizabeth ME

Doug offered a motion that the chapter contribute \$2500 to be made to the Maine chapter in support of past and future transgenic pollination activities. The motion was seconded by Ann.

Gary inquired about potential for future access to transgenic crosses by our chapter; Kendra noted it might be more feasible for UVM to apply for a USDA permit or to be added to her permit. Kendra also responded to a question about the now closed USDA APHIS comment period.

Yurij expressed support for the donation but with concerns about the somewhat unstructured way this proposal was brought to the board. The motion was passed unanimously.

6. Discussion on chapter web page update

There was general agreement that no personal contact information should be shared on the web page. Doug and Yurij noted the highest number of inquiries are reporting what they think is a chestnut tree and then how can someone obtain chestnuts. Having the web page cover those two topics would reduce the need for many email interactions. Jessica's work on updating the web page was well received.

7. Salvage Committee Update

Yurij had sent around pictures via email of a solid Wild American Chestnut rocker made and donated to the Chapter by Perkinsville, VT-based woodworker, Tom Fontaine, crafted from the Berlin tree salvage cache. Possible ways to use this chair as a fundraising award were discussed. An online raffle presents challenges for accepting funds.

Yurij also noted that the Perkinsville stash is no longer in immediate danger of being evicted. Nevertheless, finding an outlet for the lumber is still necessary. Gary suggested consigning some lumber at The Tree House Hardwoods and Mill Shop.

Questions arose where as to the Canaan tree salvage lumber may be located. The chapter contributed \$500 toward it's harvest. There is also a bowl that was to be made from that wood. Gary will attempt to follow up with Gary Robertson.

The Salvage committee will also follow up on another dead tree that Kendra brought up.

8. GCO Manton Funds

Doug moved and Curt seconded to allocate up to \$1000 in Manton Grant funding for use in the Rutland VT GCO being organized by Tom Estill. The chapter would also benefit from having an LED grow light setup in addition to the one Doug has. The motion passed unanimously.

There are still some orchard locations, e.g. Essex. without signs which can be purchased with Manton funds.

9. Safari Donation

The Development and Governance Committee has been requested to consider a policy question raised by ongoing donations from Safari International.

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:16 PM.

11. Follow-up / Action Items

1. Daane and Yurij will look into tracking of salvage lumber sales income.

2. Entire board: Vote on acceptance of the Treasurer's Report.
3. Orchard Coordination Committees: identify potential expenditures eligible for 2020 Manton Grant reimbursement, preferably by end of January 2021.
4. The Development and Governance Committee is to consider a policy question raised by ongoing donations from Safari International.