

MA/RI-TACF Fall Quarterly Meeting Minutes 10/16/2021 Hybrid Meeting

MacLeish Field Station, Whately, MA 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Board Members Present: (in person) Jaime Donalds, Brian Clark, Michael Novack, Paul Wetzel, Kathy Desjardin, Bill Davis, Gary Jacob, Karen Jones, John Meiklejohn, Rufin VanBossuyt / (Zoom) Yvonne Federowicz, Gray Curtis, Richard Hoffman, Josh Soojian

Guests: (in person) Jack Lochhead, Kalina Donalds, John Occhialini / (Zoom) Kendra Collins, Ailis Collins, Mark Meehl, Dave Lent, Ed Croteau, Bruce Piper, Bill Goodwin

9:15 am

Treasurer - Paul Wetzel

Paul submitted a written report of income & expenses. Most of the expenses are for orchard infrastructure, maintenance and services. Intern wages and mileage expenses are not all there yet. Interns are in a separate category Town of Lincoln rental agreement for GCO is \$80.00 per year and has been paid for 2021. We received Rufin's donation to support interns from the national office.

Brian donated \$2600.00 which will show in the next quarterly report. There is still money available from the Manton Grant, which will be withdrawn before the expiration date.

MOTION to accept Treasurer's report - passed unanimously.

Secretary Report - Kathy Desjardin

Membership as of 9/30/2021 is 282.

We renewed our memberships with the Mass Land Trust Coalition and Environmental Council of Rhode Island (ECRI).

Chapter Activity Report - Please send volunteer information to Kathy or put in the Online Google Doc, Tracking Activity regularly is important not only for national, but for our chapter as well.

Jamie: We need to keep the Chapter Activity Report updated throughout the year.

Kathy plans to update at quarterly meetings for next year. In 2018 she started an account with a volunteer reports organization; this allows for a lot of data recording..You can send Kathy a text doc, a spreadsheet, or pass in a written sheet at the quarterly meetings etc

Kendra: national staff uses fiscal year, which can add challenge
People agreed that updating regularly, not at the end of year, is very good.

E-sprout -- will be published 11/03/21; it would be great to get something in, deadline is 10/27.
Guidelines on amount of words. Contact Kathy for more info.
Send harvest pictures to Tamia at National -- works with Jules -- or forward to Kathy.
tamia.dame@acf.org

Publicity: National end of year campaign is working on a new project - hearing voices of people who are passionate about chestnut! Looking for submissions of a 1 minute video. Westboro volunteer Nate Lord, a senior in high school, is willing to participate. Contact Kathy for more details on submissions

The Wayside Inn "demo" chestnuts are doing great! Burs on the largest tree. Charlotte and Rufin planted those years ago. Would like to submit an article for the Chestnut Magazine about the chestnut planting at Wayside and the connection with Longfellow.

Kathy attended a hike hosted by the Burrillville Land Trust Property, led by president Paul Roselli, on 7/15 at the [Edward D. Vock Conservation Area](#) (Schofield/Gillis Property) in Pascoag - *Location:* corner of Olney Keach Road and Jackson Schoolhouse Road, Pascoag, RI. For GPS, use ([41.954152, -71.742740](#)) or 189 - 199 Olney Keach Road, Pascoag, RI The narrated 1 mile hike on Bobcat Loop Trail included interpretation by MA/RI Chapter member Edmund Croteau concerning American chestnut restoration and his volunteer efforts locating surviving trees on the property and potential GCO orchard (a first for RI). Other participants were members of the Rhode Island Woodland Partnership (RIWP) supporters. Edmund did an excellent job at answering questions from the group and talking about future plans.

ACTION: Mark Meehl is going to visit the Vock property to determine the feasibility of a GCO there.

ACTION: Yvonne will email Karen re. Minutes for Summer Quarterly Mtg
- did not ask the Board to approve those minutes yet as a result.

Karen: Kathy is doing an incredible amount! She is there for many events. Suggestion that we consider an intern to help with social media.

Communications Report: Yvonne

Yvonne & Kathy will be working with TACF on format revision of Website -- they are making changes to WordPress More news soon!

Reviewed the TACF email on the new website

WEB:

- Review your current webpage and identify:

- Old/outdated/redundant information that does not need to come over in the transition
- Which sections can be consolidated or removed
- What, if any, sections you need that are not on your webpage today
- With regard to web page maintenance, and based on your capacity and person power, define what is doable?
 - We strongly recommend that there be a weekly review of your webpage to ensure that all information is current.
- Any other suggestions or Ideas you have for your webpage

Kathy commits to reviewing the website weekly for updates.

Committee for web updates: Kathy, Yvonne, Gary -- we have volunteered Brad. Who else? Lisa Collins or one of her students ? Jesse Greene might be interested or one of his students Tim Seale? CC them to ask.

We can use the Chapter Resources page on the TACF website for information to post on our web page. What other information do we want on the website? We can use Brian's Orchards Report documents and other information reported at quarterly meetings. Please look at the website and see what you think would be good! Email Yvonne

Regional Science Report: Kendra Collins

Video of the New England Regional Science Meeting will be posted soon.

2021 TACF Annual Board Meeting is all-virtual, 10/29/2021

2022 TACF Annual Board Meeting Asheville in-person meeting!

Staff - how can they better support the chapters? Social Media stuff?
 Providing better support for website updates? Would save time for us.

Next Chapters Committee Meeting is in November.
 Kathy will be rep on that TACF Committee soon.

Deni has finished her TACF internship.

Scientific Planning Report: Michael Novack

Michael needs to redo slideshow on the scientific planning -- Jamie asked if he needs support Bill Goodwin is volunteering to work with Michael Novack on his reports. Brian will help them get in touch.

Environmental factors may affect testing more in New England due to our very variable soils. Testing seedlings might be better in that respect.

Jamie: What organisms help kill blight in mud packing? Michael: It is one or several ubiquitous organisms in almost all soil. That's why blight cannot grow underground. There is no "negative sample" to help us isolate.

Michael: Do we have records of trees rejected for funny-looking hairs?

He is going to collect from such a tree this spring

Kendra: for ID, fully-expanded leaves are the best.

Tree on Michael's property - he will resubmit

Orchard / Breeding Report: Brian Clark

Granville is now completed - 19 plots

Reviewed totals Chapter Plantings -- now more than 25,000!

Clapper, Graves, Clapper x Graves, Nankings

We are having much better success with planting seedlings than with direct seeding. Showed many great photos, including Norfolk Co. Agricultural School - replanting after wind damage. May have been partly voles? Lots of vole damage in the first year, black plastic landscape fabric may provide warmth. Are wood chips better? Wood chips put down instead of plastic - trying to reduce vole damage. Platforms for hawks to sit were suggested. There is a utility pole and line that goes across the property near the orchard.

Granville -- replacement, heavy vole predation. Survival is very good so far.

Ultrasonic vole discouragement devices in place.

Westboro -- major replantings 3-½ new plots, 2 of last years plots replanted

Stacked resistance breeding: Clapper x Graves, inoculations maybe in 2022?

Multiple crosses done in 2017. Trees have good survival.

Kendra asked what the phenotyping is - how resistant were the parents in those crosses?

Brian: some might have died

Conway, Lincoln, Wayland still need phenotyping

Cross Resistance Family Breeding

Mixing resistance family breeding in Outstanding Clapper x Graves BC3F1 crosses for seed orchard planting

2021: 4 Graves, 4 Clappers, 5 crosses done

PRR resistance in some too. Larger plot size? Incorporate Nankings when available.

Images of several beautiful, large Clapper trees inoculated years ago that are blooming, have blight but main trunk quite healthy - Lincoln Clapper #1367 - Princeton (younger than Lincoln tree) has very nice forest type form.

Harvest report is incomplete due to counts still coming in, so far we have approximately 9000 nuts.

F1 Harvest Summary provided; approx. 150 of several crosses, some male sterile, harvested autumn 2021

Jared - about 20 selections have popped out so far as "good" in his modeling

Yvonne - RI orchards need help -- rating, roguing

Bill Goodwin offered help. Josh? Mark and Dave et al. Interns are possible Interns possible too.

Mark Meehl - GCO & Wild American Harvest report:

Signage for Lincoln orchard. "Flint Field" . Images of the orchard look gorgeous. As of 10/15 90% survival out of 110 seedlings planted this year. Mark replanted on 10/15. He is following the GCO plan as published in an article by Kendra in the Journal is exactly what Mark is using. Wide margins around the planting for equipment access. Cardboard as weed control instead of landscape fabric. Plans to plant 2 blocks next year and another in 2023. A GCO orchard has a minimum of 100 trees, here we will have 600, representing 60 mother trees. A slide by Andy Newhouse shows a map with 2080 predictions of chestnut migration. Mark would like more southern trees due to higher diversity; Kendra says -- there are very, very few left down there. Kendra will keep this in mind and keep looking for trees.

The new trailer is working out very well and can accommodate 3 mowers, a rider and 2 push mowers.

Mark worked with interns Isaiah and Simon. They did great work!

Lincoln Farmers Market - Mark & Simon hosted an educational table there on Saturdays this year.

Wild American nut harvest includes 20 - 30 trees from all over MA. Brian McLain has been shucking them and estimates 30 lbs so far.

About 30 lbs of wild American harvesting. 20-30 trees across MA.

Last year 1600 wild American nuts were sent to Sara Fitzsimmons for the national spring seedling sale. These were harvested from the Canton trees, which are 2 trees 20' apart. The total harvest from those 2 trees was approximately 3000 nuts.

Please send Kendra your harvest data and map of the Flint Field GCO!

Mark showed a slide of his wish list & goals.

General discussion -

Any news on the proposed Sandisfield Orchard? Brian hasn't had any updates from Doug.

What is the number of Seed Orchards that we need? Refine what is in current seed orchards, add different material to them? Replications are not based on genes.

Yvonne requested different material for the SKLT Clapper seed orchard for this next spring. There are some areas with few trees due to gypsy moth etc. losses. F1s? Graves? Nanking?

BREAK

Nominations Committee John Meiklejohn

Two motions:

- 1.) Mileage compensation for Board members -- exemptions
- 2.) Nomination of Mark Meehl -- interaction with mileage exemption

MOTION: Board members are not reimbursed for mileage except by authorization of the Board, and must be renewed yearly

Passed unanimously

MOTION: Whereas Mark Meehl is being nominated to the MA/RI Board of Directors; and

Whereas Mr. Meehl is currently reimbursed for travel expenses [mileage] related to his extensive orchard development and maintenance work for the Chapter; and

Whereas Mr. Meehl, under current policy, could not serve on the Board and still be reimbursed for travel related to his valuable orchard-related work; and

Whereas Mr. Meehl would forego serving on the Board if he was no longer able to be reimbursed for said travel expense;

Be it resolved that the MA/RI Board of Directors will make an exception to its policy on compensation of Board members, allowing Mr. Meehl to serve on the Board if elected and

continue to be reimbursed for the mileage related to his ongoing orchard maintenance and development work.

MOTION to make an exception to its policy on compensation of Board members allowing Mr. Meehl to serve on the board passed unanimously.

Passed unanimously

Draft of Ballot

<u>Position & Name</u>	<u>For</u>	<u>Opposed</u>
<u>Executive Officers:</u>		
President – Kathy Desjardin	___	___
Vice President of Orchard Development – Brian Clark	___	___
Vice President of Scientific Planning – Michael Novak	___	___
Treasurer – Paul Wetzel	___	___
Secretary – Yvonne Federowicz	___	___
<u>Directors [Re-nominations]:</u>		
Jamie Donalds	___	___
John Emery	___	___
Michael Grames	___	___
Karen Jones	___	___
<u>Directors [New Nominations]:</u>		
Tim Seale	___	___
Mark Meehl [pending Board vote & Mark’s acceptance]	___	___
Bill Goodwin	___	___
<u>Director Emeritus [non-voting]</u>		
Rufin VanBossuyt, Jr.		
Michael noted that the spelling of his last name is “Novack”		
Nominations solicited from floor, no new ones came; closed.		

Rufin wishes to drop to Emeritus status

Nominations solicited from floor, no new ones came; closed.

MOTION to accept the ballot of nominees

Passed unanimously

Strategic Plan Report: Karen Jones:

Karen passed out copies of an updated Strategic Plan Draft. Also displayed on Zoom. The logo was developed by Mike Grames' daughter. We are using the NH/VT Strategic Plan as a template. This is a brief introduction -- there was not a long discussion. Karen would like everyone to review it and send ideas and comments to her.

Jamie: 3 BUR is not decided upon by the Chapter. Kathy will send our Chapter decision on that to Karen.

Strategic Plan Committee: Paul, Gary, Kathy, Yvonne, Brad, Karen

President's Notes: Jamie

Discussion on the intern program.

Bill has accepted continuing in the role of Intern Coordinator for 2022. What lessons have we learned?

Bill: Would like to see the program structured on demand - located geographically - concentrate and identify needs - Mark could provide oversight for an intern in the east and someone else could provide oversight in the Hawley/Pittsfield area in the west. Concerning interviews - having their own transportation would be a preferred qualification though not disqualifying if a Board member etc. can help transport. We need to determine where the help is needed, organize multiple opportunities for 2022. Could consolidate work to minimize travel hours/mileage.

John M. & Bill: over the winter, should create a list of what is needed, where; how many hours can be offered to an intern in the various areas. Share list weekly/monthly ?

Karen: Having a camera set up to record tasks would help with training.

Jamie: Thanked Rufin for the generous donation that supported this intern program.

Action: Winter meeting: intern program to be discussed.

Kendra: Manton funds can help with intern funds

John: Chuck McQuaid, retired entrepreneur has been supporting national TACF, recently visited the Granville Orchard and spent about an hour in the orchard. Considering a donation to the MA/RI Chapter.

Rufin: Should go to a higher rate, \$17 per hour?

Motion: Conversations about compensation should be in executive session. Rufin is hoping to provide funding in 2022. We can discuss fundraising for the intern program.

We also didn't have a guaranteed total of hours to offer interns last year. We should discuss general totals of compensation.

Keep an eye out for new interns!!!

Annual Meeting: Sunday 12/105/21

What are pandemic issues with this?

What are the Covid regulations at the site?

Potluck? Plan this early. Brian thinks this is an incentive for attendance.

We can do a Doodle poll of who would share in a potluck.

Speakers:

Sarah F. - travel

Kendra C. - will try to be there in person, might be zoom

Brian C. - briefing like today

Michael Veit - how long? Bees - 20 minutes or so. Summary plus future plans.

Chestnut 101? Brad?

Announcement of meeting

Zoom: will be a necessity for a while. What equipment helps it work best?

Paul: any computer; plus a projector onto the screen for people present physically.

Microphones -- good audio. Jamie is close to the laptop and is speaking loudly at this meeting.

Paul: classrooms have this; microphones are hanging from ceiling in some classes (\$\$\$); room at Macleish has speakers. Cannot have multiple microphones. Best thing is for the speaker to stand next to the speaker. Or have one active pickup at a time. Bluetooth mic / talking stick.

Maybe a projector? Speakers. Jamie will test his set of speakers.

GCO, Eustis Museum, large American in Blue Hills: Gray Curtis

Tree has been ID'd by Kendra. Gray is proposing a GCO at the Eustis Museum planted with mother tree nuts from the adjacent Blue Hills trees.. Gray's mother was a Eustis. The town forester for Scraggy Neck where Gray's forest plantings are is also willing to help out. Jim R - DCR may have personnel to help harvest nuts from the American mother trees.

Gray can work with Mark, maybe Brad too, to talk with Blue Hills DCR and related people.

There are some potentially good sites, Brad and Gray went to the Museum but Covid interfered.

Gray has the full support of the board and now needs to be working with Mark on this.

Mark: Need to have someone responsible for the planting.

Need an orchard manager prior to approval of a GCO. Gray is willing to work on that.

Advertising annual meeting:

Last year -- all electronic; Kathy needs to go through membership; send cards to just those who don't provide email addresses.

Kathy thinks it is under 50 people who would just get physical cards, no email.

Kathy will talk to Kendra about this.

Jamie - effort and expense of a mailing to all members vs.e-mail invitation.

Deadline for response -- we need to know how many are coming in person. Covid planning.

If just a few maybe we should do it all remotely?

John Meiklejohn -- On the existing Doodle Poll there was a strong preference for an in-person meeting.

Kathy: We need to get the Annual Meeting onto the Chapter Website. Calendar. Updates can be there also.

Paul - Will run the kitchen.

Jamie suggests that the quarterly meetings be slightly longer.

Meeting adjourned 1:21 pm