

MA/RI-TACFWinter Quarterly Mtg 1/30/2022

Zoom Meeting

Board Present: Jamie Donalds, Yvonne Federowicz, Gary Jacob, Mark Meehl, Dave Lent, Kathy Desjardin, Bill Davis, Brian Clark, Rufin Van Bossuyt, Mike GAMES, Mike Novack, Paul, Brad Smith, Rich Hoffman, Kendra, Josh Soojian, Tim Seale, Karen Jones, John Meiklejohn

Guests: Jon Milak - Dorchester MA, has raised chestnuts for 3 years and located many
David Marinelli
Jim Pelletier
Jim Ogonowski
Becky?

Motion: Board will elect Chairperson in accordance with section 5.4 of Bylaws. The Chairperson of Board will, at the direction of the President, act as Chairperson to facilitate meetings.

Passed unanimously.

Motion: Jamie Donalds will serve as the Chair for 2022.

New Directors were welcomed!

Treasurer Report Paul Wetzel

Sent out report 2 weeks ago. Finances are strong due to a number of donations. Reimbursed for Manton expenses. People continue to be generous. Expenses similar to last year. Intern wages, planting expenses highest. Well-positioned for next year.

Suggestion: we support Brian's donation of equipment - will be wear and tear. Karen suggests that the value of it be recorded.

Paul sent out a 1099 for interns.

We don't need a vote for reimburse for normal expenses or keeping track of in-kind donations.

Brad donated the cost of Annual Mtg facility rental.

Mike N. if someone donated the expense of something for a chapter – you debit the expense and credit the donation for it.

Minimum: email to Treasurer – “this is what I did, this is how much it cost”

Federal Guidelines on donations:

Limit before we should send a letter acknowledging the donation? (Mike Novack)

\$250

There is a 990-related limit on income but the limit is well above what we have currently.

Motion to accept Treasurer’s Report

Secretary Report: Yvonne

MOTION to accept Summer 2021 meeting minutes

All in favor except 3 new Board members were not there, abstained

MOTION to accept Fall 2021 meeting minutes:

All in favor except 3 new Board members

MOTION to accept Annual 2021 meeting minutes:

All in favor except 3 new Board members

I need to get the number of members that Kathy has always gotten

ACTION ITEM:

Treasurer also needs up-to-date list of Board Members,

Gary’s address needed changed

Membership list is 289 now (Kathy) – Kendra will ask National to change

Communications issues:

Board Members list – updates in progress

Having the best email on that Board list can be helpful. Gmail is best for folks who are actively working on a Chapter Google document.

Yvonne presented the older draft website from National – then found the newer one:

1st draft

<https://staging-theamericanchestnutfoundation.kinsta.cloud/al/alabama/#gallery>

2nd draft

<https://staging-theamericanchestnutfoundation.kinsta.cloud/nc-sc/carolinas/>

Bill Goodwin offered to join us in a meeting with the web developers for the National website

Bill, Kathy, Yvonne will be on committee

Chapter documents need to be in Chapter Google Account

We moved our website under National to make it “easier” – Jamie would be supportive of our moving our website. If our science diverges, we’d want our own website.

Kendra – most chapters are 501-c-3s. Only a few are under national.

Maine Chapter folks are also unhappy with the new Website setup.

MOTION: accept secretary’s report.

Science Report: Michael Novack

Would like permission to get as much info as possible on “funny bark syndrome”

Who is working on this? Is the cause another organism? Like mudpacking?
He would like approval for adding this to things to investigate.

This could be a fairly major thing. Is it the tree or something else?

Mike is going to respond more to Rich Hoffman’s thoughts on recessive genes too.

Jamie: this would be a great conversation for Mike N. to facilitate

Kathy: if Mike can share with interested folks, that would be great – could use Google Doc

Rich's note about the inoculation strategy ignoring bark has been an issue for quite a while

Bark-related resistance could be an important issue that we are ignoring.

If we are diverging from National, we need to document and write more about this

Kendra: Jared is working on another science document

Brian: a lot of our trees die from national infections

Kendra: If we want to select based upon bark characteristics, let Kendra know. They do select upon phenotype traits like canker size, crown health, etc. Then they do genotyping too.

Kendra: meeting with Brian, Jared, Sarah, etc.

Yvonne: the Darling tree cankers look somewhat like "cruddy bark". Is it a similar cause?

Mike: we know the mechanism in Darling better (is it similar? Do some Americans have an analog)

Send Mike N. an email if you'd like to be involved.

Kendra would like to arrange with National – is sending an email to Jared, Sara, Rich, Mike, Yvonne, Brian etc.

Regional Science Coordinator - Kendra's Report

Methods of making selections have been adjusted due to availability of new tools.

%American/Chinese. Also long-term blight-resistance traits. Jared has been adding more traits. He was able to run a predictive model, and had to re-do it.

Was able to categorize blight-tolerant materials. We had about 50 trees with very high values.

About another 100 with $\frac{2}{3}$ good values. Rest - mostly good for cross-breeding

Jared wants to help re-phenotype our trees, we may have been too harsh (all or nothing)

Our trees and Maine trees not showing as very high?

The Princeton tree came out very American. Are some very American trees still resistant enough? It's just correlation not 100%

Regional best by best crosses possible

Break

11:20 – acknowledging guests

David Marinelli is working with John Meiklejohn

Orchard Report: Brian

Doug Miner – excited about getting an orchard going this spring. Fence.

Jamie – we already voted to get money for fencing.

Brian: getting help would be great when time comes

Site is rocky, etc. Recently cleared forest, high exposed.

Mike: Be sure that the Chinese controls are suitable for high elevation.

Prioritizing replacement seedlings. For new plot plantings, did controlled pollinations.

Showed the pollination matrix. Has Clapper, Graves, Chinese, and crosses

A male-sterile group too

Has Graves x Clapper crosses. Some for Norfolk?

Last year's attempt at male sterile seeds – did not grow once potted up

Upton Chinese - could be the issue? Has F1s from those sources too

F1s can have all sorts of defects; it is a difficult cross to make.

Male sterile trees in GCOs?

Brian has numerous seedlings that could go into Sandersfield, was hoping to plant them last year. > 1000 seedlings in his greenhouse.

Stacked Resistance in Hawley CxG, GxC. 700+ trees. Plenty of natural blight in there.

Dentabase has maps including all our orchards/parcels. Kendra showed image.

Would be good to have a map that is more up-to-date on the website: - John M.

Jamie: can we evaluate trees with natural blight before inoculation, after inoculation, correlate?

“Resmap Project” small stem assays vs field inoculation – follow trees, do correlation.
In process.

Some lines, like Milton, grow much better and have good survival.

Future pollination: Medway trees - some have main stem alive. Some have trees that are all sprouts but sprouts much bigger than the main stem.

Jim DiMaio is interested in nuts for several landowners.
We have given “mutt nuts” in the past. Brian has F2s available.

Kendra has the most recent Germplasm agreement available.

GCO Report: Mark

Showed a recent article on GCO design, following grouping guidelines. Signage is very nice at the site. Town of Lincoln paid for the signage. Lincoln Town Seal has a massive chestnut on it, site of the tree has a marker. Was enormous.

Mark has a very nice June 2021 video of the Flint Field site. Nearby pumpkin fields and original homestead.
Barn swallows, killdeer.

Land is sloping, and has a southern exposure. Well.

Ground cloth, pole, deer netting that can be moved up the pole. Interns did great work. Simon and Isaiah.

Science Coordinator Report: Kendra

New England SAF meeting in March – Maine is doing most of it. Forestry.

Manton report – Kendra finalizing.

Spring Board Meeting may be in person at Meadowview.

Intern Report: Bill Davis

2 Norfolk Aggie students 85ish

Laura Ryan 35 hours

Isaiah 87 hours

Simon 284 hours

So we got approx. 12 weeks of labor.

\$10,700.

Feedback: lots of great work done

For 2022 - we have options Bill is investigating

Nate Lord - eastern MA? Getting driver's license

Isaiah Powers - RI? Might be a good weekend part-time fit

Needed: western MA person for projects

Others?

Jamie thanked Bill for the wonderful work. Bill thanked Lisa and Mark too.

Do we need more?

If Sandisfield is ready, that could be a place where an intern would be very valuable.

Funding structure can be similar to last year

Question: who are our interns?

- Varied, from forestry students to bio students etc.
- Bill Goodwin – these folks will be our successors

We are also open to new interns

Paul: we should start as soon as we can

Bill Davis will continue working with the current and potential 2022 interns

Strategic Plan Update – and Bylaws

Brad, Karen:

Started going through Bylaws too –

We had a decent draft of SP several years ago. Need 2 committees so we can get moving on it, get changes out to people

Brad & Karen have some recommendations. They have suggestions. They began working on language showing how we are re-defining what we are doing.

Brad will send out email re. 2 subcommittees. He would like to present these by the spring.

Gray was not present but Brad and Gray met...

Eustis Estate work – needs to be maintained in a similar way due to historic nature. Chestnuts could be included.

Boy Scouts.

Milton Mother tree – a new one, 40 ft tall.

Jon: working with Gray, Brad on these 3 issues. – looking at chestnuts on the estate. Could make chestnut walking sticks. Can pollen get up to that big Mother Tree?

Milton tree – Could do American pollination, seed orchard use. Brian can use lift. DCR permission needed.

President's Notes: Kathy Desjardin

Steve and others at meetings –

Public outreach created list of all scout troops in area

Badges relate to our work – can we do outreach

Gary – need the adults in scouts to be involved too

Jon has numerous ideas about scouting and opportunities for us to do outreach, get the kids involved.

“Spirit of Adventure Council” – has council members from all over (Boy Scouts)

Tyler from SKLT has an Eagle Scout interested in re-doing our signage there. The sign is very faded. Can we get signs?

Kendra: materials costs are higher now. Single panel is \$500, 3-panel is higher. Standard signs are cheaper.

We could have him spruce up kiosk and be ready to accept kiosk.

Eagle Scout requirements cannot be changed - Gary and Jon. Will this match?

MOTION: We commit to spend up to \$1000 to replace signage at SKLT.

Passed unanimously.

Note: If more than \$1000 but less than \$1400 then Executive Committee can vote on additional amount.

Rudi has offered to help the Eagle Scout too with the sign.

There are some chestnut boards at Brian Clark's.

Single-panel vs 3 panel? Numerous questions.

John Meiklejohn worked with reporter on article/presentationl.

Article sent to Board. Author lived in Groton; a Board member at National is from Groton MA.

Who else might like to do presentations via Zoom?

Mark has done presentations and can provide them via streaming.

John got good publicity, getting it into Boy Scouts network good too.

Presentation slides available from National. We can add to these for local presentations.

All presentations can be kept in the Google Drive.

Quarterly Basis – we are trying to record what we've done – send whatever you've done to Kathy. July 2021 through next June.

Rufin would like someone work with him to to pick up his work at the Cape on outreach as he is no longer driving. Perhaps he could partner with someone.

There are introductions that could be made to people.

Mark Meehl and Brad offered to work with Rufin on this.

There are references to MA/RI Chapter – photos from people from our state.

(National TACF)

Chapter Committee Meetings: Bruce Levine Chair

1. Presentation by Chapter on topic of their choice
2. Discussion of topic agreed upon

Electronic presence – social media, web, etc.

Social media gets lots of volunteers!

Draws younger generation in.

Cody from Littleton MA – saw Instagram on chestnut, that got him involved!

Dates for next meeting:

MOTION: move next meeting to

Saturday April 23rd

Passed

(National – April 9/10)

MOTION to end the meeting 1:38

