

The Board of The American Chestnut Foundation – Massachusetts Chapter – met at the Massachusetts Electric building in Northboro on Sunday, October 3, 2004.

Board members present were Sandy Gessford, Kathy Desjardins, Yvonne Federowitz, David Uguccioni, Rufin Van Bossuyt, Charlotte Zampini, Frank Howard, Guy Shepard, Michael Novack, Rich Hoffman, John Emery, Susan Cormier, Gary Jacob and Mike Meixsell.

Board members absent were Jim Garland, Anne Myers, and Brad Smith.

Others present were Dave Gessford, Jamie Donalds, Gerry Cormier, Diana Abrashkin and Sylvia Willard.

The meeting was called to order by President Susan Cormier.

It was moved by Frank Howard, seconded by Charlotte Zampini and voted 14-0 that the minutes be filed as presented.

Sandy Gessford reported for membership that letters to new members and those with expired memberships are up to date. There seems to more positive response lately from those with expired memberships. There has been a slow drop in membership perhaps due to our concentrating on orchards. It is time to think about membership push.

Sandy also circulated a sign-up sheet for drinks, desserts, etc. for the chapter's annual meeting. Board members will get a reminder the week preceding the meeting.

Susan also mentioned that Anne Myers step dad died yesterday necessitating Anne's absence from this meeting.

Mike Novack presented Anne's treasurer report and attached notes (attached to file copy of these minutes) which she had e-mailed and mailed to Board members prior to this meeting.

It was moved by Guy Shepard, seconded by Gary Jacob, and voted 14-0 that the treasurer's report be accepted as presented.

Yvonne Federowitz will be taking over the tree database.

Publicity – Frank Howard spoke about a national interactive on-line database from the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology that collects information on backyard birds, hawk migration and many other bird phenomena – E-bird. Frank proposed that TACF might consider E-chestnut in a similar format as there is a need for a standardized national interactive on-line database. A copy of Frank's presentation and relative information is attached to the file copy of these minutes. He proposes starting with our chapter and see if all the state chapters would be interested. Frank will write up a summary for Susan to take to the National Annual Meeting at the end of this month.

Publicity – John Emery will be taking charge of the power point equipment and keeping it at his home.

-Gary Jacob will give the presentation at Arnold Arboretum on January 15 that Anne Myers was originally scheduled to do.

- Gary will give a presentation at Wellesley College in March. He is hoping that Marshal Case can attend as there might be some serious financial possibilities.

- Susan and Gerry have presentations coming up at the Berkshire Botanical Gardens and for the Nashua River Watershed Association in Groton.

- Kathy Desjardins will give a presentation on Grafton cable TV on October 14 at 8 p.m. We will be able to get a tape of this from the station for our use.

In mid-November, Rufin will give a presentation to the Association of Forest Owners of Rhode Island. Yvonne Federowitz may be able to help with this.

- Rufin was responsible for a very good article in the Cape Cod Times that was circulated on the entire Cape.

- Jamie Daniels was videotaped for a cable access station of which the portion on chestnuts will be made available to us for our use.

Public relations – Mike Meixsell said that several orchards signs are needed, and it would likely cost less if several are ordered at the same time. Gary is ordering them. Mike Novack can pick them up in Bennington. Jamie can make posts for them. Funds for the signs are already budgeted.

Field Operations – Charlotte Zampini reported that harvesting had to be done early, and there was a good harvest. She has not received all the harvest reports. She needs total number of burrs, number of nuts per burr from both pollinated and control trees. John Emery is storing some materials and equipment. Jamie Donalds can also store materials and equipment, but there is a need for the winter storage of nuts. Please contact Charlotte in regard to this. Jamie has three refrigerators and will use one. The others are available – one small and one mid-size. Charlotte will circulate techniques for storing nuts. It is best to store them at the site of planting. Charlotte has some storage room for storage in a walk-in cooler at Framingham State.

Volunteer hours can be sent to Mike Novack although Susan believes that we do not need this data at this time.

Rufin Van Bossuyt could not find anyone to get orchards started this fall in Dartmouth and Littleton. Rufin has looked at these sites. There is also an available site in Boxboro that Rufin has not seen.

Elections – Gerry Cormier reported that there are eight vacancies on the Board up for election this year. Anne Myers and Sandy Gessford will not run again. Jamie Donalds is interested in serving on the Board. All four officers positions have to be filled. Gerry will e-mail or mail copies of the ballot.

By the end of 2005, Susan and Gerry Cormier will be moving to Arkansas. Susan is willing to continue to serve as president until their move. It should be noted that the president is also a

member of the National Board. There are two (sometimes three) meetings each year to attend at personal expense – one being just prior to the National annual meeting.

Massachusetts Annual Meeting – November 7, 2004 – Susan Cormier passed out rough drafts of the pamphlet on our chapter annual meeting that will go out in a bulk mailing to members and other interested people. Gary Jacob will introduce and coordinate the power point presentations of the orchard managers. It is hoped to have some good digital images of each orchard. Jamie Donalds will help with subject matter headings. Orchard managers should suggest to Gary or Jamie the topics on which they would like to speak. Any CDs should go to Gary.

The next Board meeting will be on Sunday, January 23, 2005, at the Massachusetts Electric/National Grid building in Northboro.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra M. Gessford, Secretary