

Minutes for review and edit; Submitted 9/26/06

CT-TACF Fall 2006 Board of Directors Meeting

Location: Woodbridge Center

Date: September 23, 2006

The board is grateful to the Woodbridge Land Trust for hosting this meeting and thanks the members for their assistance.

Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 10:15 AM

Roll Call

Present: Bill Adamsen, Jim Gage, Gayle Kida, Philip B. Arnold MD, Garrett A. Smith, Pat van de Kamp, John Anderson, Robert Gregg and David Bingham MD.

Absent; Rod Longley and Charles Dobos.

It was noted that 9 of the 11 members of the Board of Directors were present, constituting a quorum by meeting the requirements of Article V Section 6, that at least half of the Directors be present.

Other guests and attendees: , Leila Pinchot, Dr. Marilyn Moss, freelance writer for the Orange Bulletin,(working with Robert Gregg on an article for the New York Times), Joseph Calistro, Woodbridge Land Trust, Dr. Ron Hedberg (WLT), Michael Raymond (WLT), Robert J. Fries (WLT).

Review of minutes

The minutes of the Spring meeting of the board of directors were submitted for review. They were accepted.

President's Report

- The chapter has been awarded a grant of \$4,000 from the Norcross Foundation to be used for capitol projects. Primary restrictions is that the funds must be used with in one year ending 6/22/07. Discussion and vote were tabled for "new business".
- Bill presented a letter dated September 22nd, 2006 to Starling Childs – President of Great Mountain Forest Corporation (GMFC). The CT-TACF Board had voted to approve moving forward with a project with GMFC at the Spring Meeting, and Mr. Adamsen wanted to ensure the "intent" of that vote, had been captured in the letter. Mr. Adamsen informed the committee (presented supporting e-mail documentation) that the agreement had been reviewed and approved by TACF CEO Marshal Case and Science Chair Dr. Kim Steiner, and General Council Donald C. Willeke, Esq. The agreement has been approved by the GMFC Board of Directors. The letter included our Orchard Agreement and a list of contact information for the Board. ***A motion was made to approve sending the letter of agreement to GMFC, and the motion carried unanimously.***
- Bill reported on a presentation by Marshal and Leila to Northeast Utilities. There is a possibility of CT-TACF receiving some funding in the future. Look for a News Release from NU in the near future.
- Bill presented a collection of letters written to Bartlett Tree Experts (David McMaster - V.P., Jim Ingram - V.P., Mr. Greg Daniels – President, Ms Tina McNulty – Public Relations) expressing appreciation for their assistance throughout the season supporting the Chapter with Pre-bagging, Pollinations and Harvesting nuts. ***A motion was made to approve sending the letters of appreciation to Bartlett, and the motion carried unanimously.***

Committee Coordinator Reports

Finance Coordinator- Treasurer (Jim Gage)

- The chapter is in better shape financially than expected. This is due to receipt of the Norcross Foundation Grant, recovery of additional lost membership funds from national (last opportunity for that windfall). And lower expenditures – especially in the Tree Breeding and projects area - than expected.
- ***A motion was made to transfer the capital from a Bank of America CD to a Fidelity Money Market brokerage fund. The motion carried unanimously.*** A copy of the Fidelity resolutions is with the secretary.
- A proposal for the 100% reimbursement of reasonable expenses incurred by the President or their delegate, for attending the two *required* National meetings – the spring Board Meeting and Fall Annual Meeting - was discussed. ***A motion was made to reimburse the President or their delegate, for all reasonable costs associated with travel made in accordance with the two required annual TACF meetings. The motion carried unanimously.***
- It was suggested that we add to the balance sheet the names and amounts of in kind services that were donated to CT-TACF. This could be as a journal entry in the treasurer's report. Bill to circulate a reminder to forward estimates of in kind contributions, mileage and other expenses.

Tree Breeding Coordinator (Gayle Kida)

- Gayle and Leila provided a spreadsheet reporting on all the tree activity during the bagging and pollination. Harvesting of burr's will begin in the next few weeks. WE wish to thank Robert J.Fries and his son Ken for providing bucket trucks and assistance during pollination. A call was made for volunteers to assist in the gathering process. Please contact Gayle or Leila if you are available.
- Members are encouraged to locate and submit leaf and twig samples whenever possible. Noting that it is important to indicate the exact location of the trees provide a name and return address/phone number and that the specimens be flattened and protected between cardboard or newspaper when shipped. Please send to the attention of Leila Pinchot at 370 Prospect Street, New Haven, CT 06511
- In alignment with documenting the donated "in kind services" it was requested that Gayle attempt to put a value on the Bartlett services and Fries Services, and provide that information to the Treasurer by shortly after completion of harvest but before year end.
- The subject of providing a suitable place to house the harvested nuts was presented to the board. It was suggested that we purchase a refrigerator, to be kept at Leila office at Yale, as a central storage area for nut specimens. Leila will research the best model and Phil Arnold offered to donate the funds to cover the cost. A motion was made to approve buying the refrigerator and passed unanimously.
- The distribution of available nuts will be tabled until the Nov. meeting.

Orchard Managers (Arnold and Bingham)

- For Woodbridge, Philip planted 168 trees, 130 sprouted with 78% germination. He intends to cultivate additional land within the 1/12 acre plot. A second planting of 150 trees is planned for April 2007.
- For Salem, David planted 150, 120 sprouted. He also will extend his area of planting.
- Note: The subject of planting in dead spots was raised. * Leila will ask Sara F. for advice in this matter and report back.
- Note: Signage for orchards is in the budget and will be provided as needed. Bill to provide a draft sampling of the new posters to Phil ASAP.
- Robert Gregg circulated a report titled; Calistro-Arnold American-Chinese Chestnut Proposal Interbreed for an F1, on behalf of the WLT. The question put to the board was regarding the feasibility of the project outlined in the letter. Discussion carried concerns that such a project might dilute current efforts. There was specific concern about where such nuts might be planted, and whether this would impact availability of protected planting for the TACF hybrids.

Education Coordinator (Smith)

- Garrett discussed the upcoming annual meeting and provided information about the speakers that have agreed to make presentations at the meeting. As follows:
 - Dr. Chad Oliver- Director of the Global Institute for Sustainable Forestry at Yale
 - Dr. Chuck Maynard – Researcher from SUNY ESF Syracuse - Transgenics.
 - Dr. Ann Camp – Yale University
 - Dr. Sandra Anagnostakis – CAES - the history of CT's restoration efforts
 - Additional presenters include: Gayle Kida, Leila Pinchot and Phil Arnold
- Note: Based on David Bingham's discussion of the Chestnut trees unique ability to sequester carbon and how that would relate to global warming, *Leila will contact Marshal for how the TACF is officially presenting the American Chestnut for carbon sequestration, and consider whether this is an appropriate topic for one of the presentations.
- Ann Camp – Professor, Yale School of Forestry – Reintroducing Chestnut to the Forest.
- Regarding expenses for the meeting; as the treasurer noted, we have a budget to cover the meeting costs, but it was suggested that we set up a notice by the lunch area regarding a volunteer contribution of \$5.00 would be appreciated by those who wish to join us for lunch. ***A motion was made to accept the approach of volunteer contributions for lunch. The motion carried unanimously.***

Communications Coordinator (Bill Adamsen - website, newsletter)

- Bill noted that we need content for the website which has been set-up to receive data from outside contributors. Please be in contact with Bill for further details and to submit website worthy chapter information and activities.
- For the newsletter, Leila would like articles, and updates on orchards. Newsletter will be published first week of October.

Membership Coordinator

- Bill reported that our membership has stabilized at 250 and is increasing.

New England Regional Science Coordinator (Leila Pinchot)

- There have been a number of new trees identified in Canaan, Norfolk, Tolland, Stafford and Manchester. Leila and others have also visited the sites where reports have come in of possible American Chestnut trees in Wallingford and Harwinton and elsewhere.

Existing Business

- Great Mountain Orchard Agreement – (see motion defined in Bill’s report)
- Newsletter – the deadline for submissions is this week. Please contact Leila.
- * John Andeson and Garrett have offered to make a presentation to the local groups in the Norfolk area.
- David is requesting presentation materials. *Bill has a prepared program that is on Power-point and will forward to David for review.

New Business

- **Norcross Grant Disbursement** Norcross Wildlife Foundation, Inc. Grant It was decided that \$1,000 would be given to the Woodbridge Land Trust to reimburse them for the cost of the fencing at their local orchard. ***A motion was made to approve the disbursement of \$1000 to Woodbridge Land Trust. The motion passed unanimously with Robert Gregg and Phil Arnold abstaining.*** Philip Arnold was given a check for that amount.
- **Norcross Grant Disbursement-Solicitation of Proposal from NCLT** Northern CT Land Trust – based in the six towns of Enfield, Somers, Statford, East Windsor and Ellington. The association has been active for 10-15 years and has 120 volunteers. The President Culver Modisette has signed our germplasm agreement.* An orchard agreement is to be drafted by Bill Adamsen and forwarded for review by Jim Gage. Bill Adamsen presented the draft letter to Jerry Stage VP-NCLT requesting a proposal from NCLT to CT-TACF defining interest in an orchard and committing to spend up to \$3000 of the Chapter’s funds in building a deer fencing enclosure. Deadline for the proposal would be the November Annual meeting ... which would allow the opportunity to accept the proposal. ***A motion was made to approve of sending the letter to Jerry Stage as drafted. The motion passed unanimously with Jim Gage abstaining.***
- **Advanced Breeding Hybrid Nut Distribution.** Distribution of hybrid nuts to be tabled for the Nov. meeting based on the “don’t count your chickens before they hatch” rule.
- **Selecting Orchard Sites** Potential orchard sites discussed; Great Mountain, Litchfield Land Trust, Litchfield Livingston Ripley Waterfowl Sanctuary, Greenwich Land Trust, Aspetuck Land Trust. One of the key issues was understanding, based on our limited resources (personnel) what made a good partnership for an orchard. It was expressed that virtually every organization contacted would love to provide the land for an orchard, but that what we really need are relationships where the Land Trust, or other organization can provide the labor and logistics with us providing the management experience. This discussion was prompted by Pat’s discussion with David Crawford of the Naugatuck Land Trust and their interest in possibly hosting an orchard. The concept of a “Land Trust Proposal Letter” was adopted and will be developed by David Bingham

and Bill Adamsen. A document will be produced and shared at the Spring Board Meeting in 2007.

- **Autumn Newsletter** Our upcoming newsletter will include information and the agenda of the meeting. A RSVP response e-mail address (info@ctacf.org) has been created by Bill to monitor the number of attendees. * The board encourages members to provide educational displays and physical samples of Chestnut burr's nuts, leaves etc. to engage the public. Pat will provide PR materials and our ACF brochures at every set as take-away information. In a recent e-mail, Pat suggested we purchase from headquarters say 20 of our botanical designed tee shirts @ \$10 a piece and sell them after the meeting for cash only at \$20.00 a piece no tax would be collected.
- **Bylaws Review** John Anderson will be reviewing the current bylaws and will make recommendations.
- **Nominating Committee** Following the Board of Directors we held a the Nominating Committee meeting and considered the profiles of two members. One would be filling an empty position, the other filling a vacancy created by an expiring term. CT-TACF members will vote on the nominations at the **Chapter Annual Meeting on November 11th** held at Sage Hall on the Yale campus, New Haven. Current Board Members whose terms are expiring are Pat van de Kamp, Garrett Smith, Gayle Kida, Charles Dobos, John Anderson and Bill Adamsen. Charles Dobos is not returning as a Board member, but has requested remaining involved as the Orchard Manager for the White Memorial Research Orchard in Litchfield. Names submitted to the Committee for consideration were Mike McGee and Woody Sinclair.

Review Action Items from Last Meeting

- Leila will contact Yale to attempt to secure November 11th for the Annual Meeting. (closed)
- Bill will sign and return the Orchard Agreement to Great Mountain Forest. (closed)
- Gayle and Leila will work up a pollination plan for distribution. (closed)
- Sara and Bill will continue to try and secure an intern for the Summer. (closed)
- Bill will work up a draft Newsletter by May 19th and review with Leila (closed)
- Directors will get their year's events to Bill by Friday May 19th for inclusion in the Newsletter Calendar. (closed)
- Garrett will work to solicit ideas for Annual Meeting Speakers, and develop a draft agenda for the Annual Meeting. (closed)
- Garrett will work to secure additional speaking engagements for the speaker's bureau (closed)
- John Anderson will submit proposed amended Bylaws to meet changes in the operating processes. (open)
- Bill will change November Board Minutes to Approved (closed)

Action Items Recap from This Meeting

- Leila will ask Sara Fitzsimmons for advice on "backplanting" orchard locations where fatalities occurred and report back
- Leila will contact Marshal for how the TACF is officially presenting the American Chestnut for carbon sequestration, and consider whether this is an appropriate topic for one of the presentations.

- John Anderson and Garrett Smith have offered to make a presentation to the local groups in the Norfolk area ... library or other location for this fall/winter.
- Bill Adamsen has a prepared program that is on Power-point and will forward to David Bingham for review
- Bill Adamsen to provide Jim Gage a draft orchard agreement for NCLT should they accept the offer and submit a proposal for review
- The board encourages members to provide educational displays and physical samples of Chestnut burr's nuts, leaves etc. to engage the public
- Bill Adamsen to forward David Bingham his Powerpoint presentation for giving to groups.
- Bill Adamsen to mail the 6 letters he received approval to mail (4 to Bartlett, 1 to Great Mountain Forest Corporation, 1 to NCLT)
- Bill Adamsen to forward a PDF copy of the NCLT letter to Jim Gage to "jump start" the process of getting the NCLT proposal moving forward.
- Bill Adamsen to sign the forms for the Bank account and forward to Jim Gage
- Leila and Bill to put together the Newsletter to be mailed not less than 30 days before the November meeting
- Garrett Smith to finalize the logistics for the Annual Meeting and forward the schedule to Leila
- All Board Members to forward any required Newsletter material to Leila.
- David Bingham and Bill Adamsen to prepare a brochure and or mailer for advising organizations about what makes a good partnership for the CT-TACF
- Leila to approach Woody Sinclair about becoming a Board Member
- Bill Adamsen to send a draft copy of the Woodbridge Poster to Phil Arnold and work with Phil to get produced
- Bill Adamsen to produce a draft copy of the Educational Display for White Memorial

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 2:15PM.