

## **CT Chapter, The American Chestnut Foundation Minutes of the Meeting of Saturday, April 23, 2016**

**Present:**, John Blossom, David Bingham, Star Childs, Dan Donahue, Jim Gage, Jane Harris, Bert Malkus, Mark Neumann, Jack Ostroff, Garrett Smith, Kendra Collins ; special guest, Karl Rider of Rock Cobble Farm, also Jack Swatt.

Following an informative presentation of StormWise research at the University of CT by Assistant Extension Professor Thomas Worthley, President Starling Childs **called the annual meeting to order** at 11:25 a.m. Star asked for a **motion to approve the minutes** of the April 2015 meeting in Middletown. On a motion by David Bingham and a second by Garrett Smith, the minutes were unanimously approved.

Jim presented the **Treasurer's Report**. The chapter has a current asset balance of \$43,140.00. David B. and Bert Malkus moved and seconded a motion to accept the report, and the **vote was unanimously in favor**.

Star **provided the President's Report**, and asked Jack O. to report on the Spring National Meeting. Jack announced that the Board of TACF has been restructured, and the Chapters Committee is also undergoing some changes. They are looking for suggestions on how headquarters can better serve the chapters. Suggested areas for improvement: HQ could provide 501C(3) coverage for those chapters who have not yet qualified. The HQ website could be an umbrella for all chapter websites. The Distribution and Restoration Committees are being merged. Jared Westbrook is the new TACF geneticist. With his help, they hope to speed up the selection process through gene sequencing rather than waiting for the entire challenge phase to be completed. They will be able to employ genomic selection before trees are planted.

Star then called upon Kendra for news; she said that she can bring Jared Westbrook to a CT meeting if we want to hear directly from him about recent progress. Two of her pending activities are the finalizing of tree selection at Phil's and Jim's orchards after the challenge. She further reported that the Rock Cobble agreement is ready to be signed. Our chapter will need nine acres for seed orchards – those acres do not need to be contiguous. She is also looking for more orchards that are ready to be inoculated; it is best to do a complete orchard at one time. The TACF National Meeting will be held in Louisville November 10-12.

Star **announced the directors** whose terms are up in 2016. They are: Jim Gage, John Baker, Phil Arnold, David Bingham, Garrett Smith, Susan Kelsey, and Bert Malkus. Jack moved to re-elect the entire group, with a second by Bert. The **approval was unanimous**. Star then **announced the slate of officers**: President: Star Childs; Vice-President: Jack Ostroff; Treasurer: Jim Gage; Secretary: Jane Harris. Upon a **motion** by Bert and a second by Mark Neumann, the **vote was again unanimous**. Star then declared the meeting adjourned.

Following lunch, Star Childs called the Board Meeting to order at 12:45. Following the introduction of Board Member Dan Donahue and Orchard Manager Jack Swatt, he asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the last Board Meeting. On a motion by Jack O. with a second by David the minutes were unanimously approved.

Jim then gave the **Budget Report**, announcing that the Manton Grant will be \$4,500 instead of the usual \$5,000. He expects that the deficit will be made up for with membership fees. He asked if the Board wanted to allocate an additional \$500 for a second attendee at the Fall Meeting in Louisville. David moved and Jim seconded the allocation; the vote was unanimously in favor. John Blossom asked if there were still funds reserved for fencing at Guilford, as approved in 2015. David moved to carry forward \$5,000 for fencing for existing orchards. On a motion by David and a second by Jack O, the budget reflecting \$17,600 in expenses, was approved unanimously.

**Old Business:** Kendra explained the reduction in this year's Manton Grant. David has some site tags which he was using in a nearby preserve for stump sprouts. Bill Adamsen will attend the CT Land Conservation Council on behalf of CTACF.

Star then introduced Karl Rider, Manager at Rock Cobble Farm. Karl provided a brief history of the contact between Rock Cobble and CTACF through Forester and Board Member Susan Kelsey. The one acre which will be a seed orchard is one-quarter owned by the Weantinoge Land Trust. This acre has been cleared for planting already. Rock Cobble Farm consists of 1200 acres, of which 400 are forested. There are five horticulturists and eight landscape workers at the farm and greenhouses. Following a discussion of the agreement between Rock Cobble and CTACF, David moved to approve the signing, seconded by Jack O. The vote was unanimously in favor.

Star then introduced Dan Donohue, who reported on the other proposed seed orchard site, a one-acre hayfield, part of the 2,000-acre Norcross Wildlife Preserve. The field has a south-facing exposure, is off a dead-end road, and is about 1,000 feet from a pond.

Kendra reported that the Graves strain appears to be resistant to Phytophthora root rot, but the Clapper strain is not.

Star declared the meeting adjourned at 2 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jane Harris  
Recording Secretary