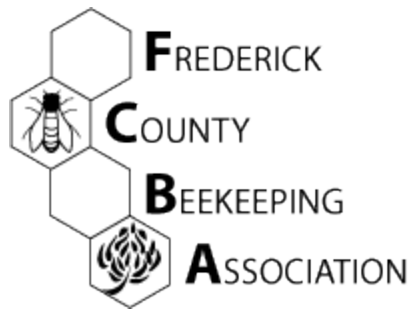


Educate and
Advocate for
Responsible
Beekeeping



Meeting Minutes

December 4, 2013

The ANNUAL meeting was called to order at 7:36 PM by Dave Maloney, President.

New members were welcomed and introduced.

Meeting Minutes

After asking for corrections, the minutes from the November meeting were unanimously approved. Note: The minutes will be routed to everyone through email for review and then accepted at the following meeting instead of being read and accepted during the meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Dave gave the treasurer's report for Seth who could not attend. There was a starting balance of \$3,571.89. There were no expenses. Club dues in the amount of \$40 were added leaving the balance of \$3,611.89. The report was approved.

Old Business

Fence Hive Status: The hives have been fed candy on the top bar of the top super. Still alive!

Observation Hive Status: The hive remains clean and ready in Dave's garage. Dave asked for direction for the next steps. The members suggested use the fence line hive and install frames of brood for young bees in the spring. Discussion continued regarding the proximity to the original hive and the possibility of returning or getting confused. The suggestion was made to install the bees at an alternate location and then move the observation hive back to Fountain Rock.

January Short Course: Chairwoman Rose Aurigemma reported many thanks for the volunteers who have signed up to help. She also introduced her daughter who will be organizing the materials for the short course as a project to earn her Silver Award. At this point they need to locate the materials and electronic slideshows. Members suggested contacting Mark Gibson and Ed Mordan. Also Liz Thompson can be contacted to preview the space. So far, 28 people have signed up and 24 have paid for the course. Rose will be in touch in the near future for further planning.

Candy Making Event: Many thanks to Rose for sharing her home as the location for the candy making event. Great success. She shared that a Camelback was left...Doug Sims?

New Meeting Place: The club is quickly outgrowing the Fountain Rock space. Other ideas: Holly Hills Country Club is available at no cost. Also the 4-H Extension Office (341 Montevue Lane) is available (classroom style) at no cost as well.

Budget for 2014: Seth is currently working on the budget to be reviewed by the new administration.

Bylaws: The bylaws no longer reflect the structure and procedures of the club. This may be a priority for the next administration.

Spring Ridge Ag Expo: Laura reported that the expo is still in preliminary planning stages. The club will be sponsoring two stations: one highlighting the jobs and anatomy of the honeybee, and the other highlighting the hive structure and the equipment of beekeeping. Both stations will also have a collection of children's literature on bees and beekeeping. For each station, there should be a take-home page for a booklet, where students will be filling in information gained from the station. The Expo will take place on March 27th, 2014. More info to follow at the January meeting.

New Business

MSBA Report: Bill McGiffin shared that they are currently in between meetings. He will have new info at the next meeting.

Snacks at Club Meetings: Laura asked for feedback regarding the snack sign-up and drink supply. With the growing number of attendees at the meeting, we may need to expand the responsibility to two members for snack. Also, discussion of whether or not the club could provide the drinks and paper goods. Mike Turell motioned for 2 members to bring the snacks for 15-20 people each and the club provides 2 gallons of drink (cider, lemonade) and plastic cups. Dave clarified that the purchaser would be reimbursed by the club. All were in agreement that this would work the best. The snack sign-up was sent around for volunteers. The members asked that the secretary send out an email reminder prior to the meeting as well as post the sign-up on the website. If you did not attend this meeting and would like to sign-up in one of the open spaces, please email Laura Ritchie at llritch79@gmail.com

Club Elections: The election for the next slate of officers was held. There was no contest: Glen Mayers, President; Rose Aurigemma, President-elect; Seth Wilson, Treasurer; Laura Ritchie, Secretary. Dave opened the floor for nominations. There were none. Unanimous Approval of Uncontested Candidates.

Future Moderated Discussion Topic: John Klapac offered to give a moderated discussion on section honey. He gave a brief overview of how section honey can be a profitable way to process and sell honey by minimizing the equipment needed to process honey for sale. It uses

the Ross Round System and averages about \$54 a super. The members though this topic would be best discussed earlier in the year (January). John will discuss with the new President.

Package Shortage for 2014: John also shared that there is a package shortage. Members should be ordering packages EARLY (January). John will be placing his order by January 15th and the bees will be scheduled to arrive on approximately the third week in April. It was recommended that this be stressed to the Short Course attendees on the first day of the course.

Moderated Topic Discussion: This Month with the Bees

Allen shared his experience with mites this year. He has been talking to people from MAQS and their suggestions vary. MAQS recommended ventilated bottom boards, he treated and still had high mite levels. Allen called MiteAway to inquire about bad batches...they suggested leaving bottom board in which was different than what their website recommended. All in all, only a 5% difference in mite counts between the bottom board options. Suggested that early August is too early to treat in this area, instead the window of 2nd week of August to 2nd week of September is ideal. Allen has packed up his bees and sent them for Lorens, SC to allow them to get healthy and strengthen.

Dave shared that his mites were also rather stubborn. HE treated with MAQS strips and still had high levels. He also treated with formic acid and reported a drastic drop in mite numbers after the 4th treatment.

Glen shared that he has lost a hive, assuming the cause to be mites. He treated with MiteAway in September. Recently went down by the hives and noticed no buzz, even after tapping. Then he opened the hive there were about 1500 dead bees in the bottom, as well as "soft bees." He found the queen.

Laura and Weston shared a similar demise. They have also lost a hive to what they think is mite damage. The hive started as a nuc and was flourishing over the summer and was actually more active than their package hive. They tried more organic treatments, including sugar dusting and fogging them with mineral oil. They reported low mite numbers in the package hive after the sugar dusting and fogging. The other hive however seemed unsettled and was not eating the 2:1 syrup going into September. They feed candy and closed up the hives in late October. They have noticed little activity. Last Sunday, they checked the hive and heard no buzz. They opened it up and found a softball sized cluster with the queen in the center. There were various stages of development, plenty of capped honey, and a perfectly formed cluster. JUST TOO SMALL! They cleaned the hive and asked for suggestions of what to do with the hive. Club members suggested leaving it intact until February, but protecting it from mice. Use as back-up food for the surviving hive. Any unused portions should be stored in the freezer to prevent wax moth damage.

Jens also shared he used the sugar dusting method. He dusted his bees 8 times!

Dave also shared that he made candy boards and placed them in his hive. He thinks they are already eating them!

The meeting ended with door prizes and was officially adjourned at 8:43 PM with snacks and drinks to follow.

The next meeting will be JANUARY 8th, 2013, at 7:30 pm at the Fountain Rock Nature Center, Walkersville, MD.

Snacks will be provided by Liz Peterson and Mike Wesneski.