

Sheboygan County Beekeeper's Association (SBCA) Meeting Minutes 9/10/2019

6:40 pm Meeting called to order

No Secretary's report this month as Kathy is traveling.

August meeting minutes have been posted on website.

Motion to accept August minutes – Garry S

Second - Peter D

Motion carried

Treasurer's Report – Ken M.

Checking account balance \$939.97

Savings account balance \$952.69

Ken reports checking account balance down from \$1597.00 due to shirt order (money was collected prior to order being placed).

Motion to accept Treasurer's report – Garry S

Second – Peter D

Motion carried

Old Business

Gary O. at Honeyland Farms has cancelled the scheduled October 12 presentation. He will be visiting Slovakian beekeepers at that time and will report on his visit at a later date.

Peter D. reports that the Town of Plymouth recently declared his hives to be illegal. He was granted permission by the Town Board Chair 3 years ago to install his hives but a neighbor has recently complained to the board about the presence of the hives.

Discussion followed. Highlights include: Hives are allowed in Madison, Milwaukee, Manitowoc, Grafton, Sheboygan Falls, Manitowoc Falls, and in Sheboygan when not considered a nuisance. Also, in reference to the complaint (apparently based on a child's allergy), it was stated that hives are maintained at Maywood, the Children's Museum, and at Bookworm Gardens, where many children visit.

When asked, Peter D. explained that his hives are in a wooded area on his 1 acre property, 120 yards from his nearest neighbor.

Peter D will be appearing before the board on Tuesday, October 1st and asks that anyone who is interested in supporting the cause to attend. Also, at his invitation, a representative of Beevangelists, a Milwaukee not-for-profit organization, will also testify.

The meeting will be held in Plymouth at the town hall on Tuesday, October 1, at 7:00 pm. The address is 120 Suhrke Road, Plymouth WI 53073.

New Business

Garry S. reports that registration forms to attend the annual Wisconsin Honey Producers Association convention are available. Ken M. will also scan the forms to make them available online through the website, for those who are interested. The registration fee increases by \$10.00 for forms submitted after October 1st.

The convention will be held on November 1st and 2nd at the Radisson Hotel and Conference Center, 625 Rolling Meadows Dr., Fond du Lac, WI 54937

Q & A

- **What to do this month:** take honey, feed, treat for mites (2:1 for autumn)
- **What is best treatment for hive beetles:** dryer sheets placed in the hive above the bottom board on top of the screen. Alternatively, plastic trays with oil to trap the beetles. Discussion on “bee jail” for hive beetles and on how beetles can “slime” a hive.
- **Can hives be given too much syrup:** usually bees will simply stop taking syrup, although there was discussion on whether syrup storage and brood storage compete.
- **Why would dead bees be found near feeding station:** check for holes in screen or a warped cover

Book Report on “100 Plants to Feed the Bees”, written and published by the Xerces society. Report delivered by Peter D. Described as a good reference for plants that thrive in a particular area, how they flower, how sweet is their nectar, what is the “honey add per hive”. Not a garden planning book.

Program

Garry S. displayed a collection of modified 5 gallon buckets used to (gently) vacuum bees, capture swarms, and temporarily store bees (buckets on their sides to avoid suffocation). He recently used his buckets to remove a hive from an interior barn wall; he used a sabre saw to cut circles into the bucket ends to add screens mounted on plywood rims. Thanks, Garry, for a very informative talk!

Hive Reports were delivered. A few hives were very successful this summer, but several keepers reported hives that had re-queened multiple times or had absconded, so honey production was, on average, lower than usual.

Refreshments were provided by – Jim and Betty Kuplic
Motion to adjourn – Garry S.
Second – Peter D.

NEXT MEETING: October 8