

Sheboygan County Beekeepers Association

September 14, 2021

Dan P called the meeting to order.

Attendance: 26, including 2 new couples

Minutes - August Minutes are posted on the website

Treasurer's Report - Ken reported: that is still unable to get online; the balances haven't changed since last month.

Checking account balance - \$ 1174.97

Savings account balance - \$ 948.94

Motion to Accept: Gary S.

Second: Dan H.

Passed around the Snack/Program signup sheet: It is full for the remainder of the year! We have decided to wait and see if we will have our usual Holiday pot luck, depending on the status of the pandemic.

Old Business -

- **Above and Beyond Children's Museum:** Ken hasn't done anything directly with the hive because the bees that were installed live on medium supers; the hive is constructed for deeps. The bees have filled created comb to fill the gaps; the created comb is attached to the Plexiglas of the hive.
- **Maywood hive update:** Sam Lammers was out of town, so Peter D. provided the update. The hive has a lot of bees and brood but hasn't stored any food for the coming winter. Sam has been feeding the colony honey, which they are excited to have
- **Update on a Friend of Sheboygan County Beekeepers entity:** Dan encouraged the group to read the documents submitted (guidelines and a sample letter). We had brief discussion on potential recipients and agreed that we will vote on whether or not to adopt the proposal at next meeting.
- **Club shirts -**
Dan P. took orders for SCBA merchandise and has talked to the printer regarding the order.
- **Nourish temperature and humidity:** The barn is heated but does not have A/C. On the occasions when the temp and humidity become uncomfortable, we are invited to use the kitchen/dining area in the main building, which is air-conditioned.

- Future meetings and COVID - re-evaluate after winter if we need to include Zoom meetings.

Correspondence -

- Several contacts from people wanting assistance with bee issues. NOTE: Dan P. and Jessica did a cut out during the past month. A hive had been constructed within the walls of a building; the owner said he was replacing the drywall anyway, so they cut the wall open and discovered a beautiful hive. They successfully removed the comb and attached it to frames with rubber bands. A video of this activity has been posted on Facebook!
- **New Business** -Peter D suggested that we have an open discussion regarding mite treatment at our next meeting. What ensued was a lively discussion regarding vaporized vs towel vs drip treatments and what the Bee Inspector who visited last meeting had to say about it. So, we should have a good discussion next meeting. Everyone is encouraged to come ready to share their approach. Issues to be covered will include: the benefits and side effects of the available treatment options, the current DNR position concerning those options, frequency recommendations (particularly in regard to brood cycles) and what this means for the health of the hives and the quality of the honey. We can discuss our successes and failures and hopefully find a path to describing best practices.

Questions sent from membership -

This is not exactly a question from membership, but a suggestion was offered during the meeting that we create a member survey to gather data concerning mite treatment, overwintering of hives, etc. Is this something we can do? in the main building

Hive reports - (NOTE: MY APOLOGIES - names are incomplete and not always correct)

Mark B: started with 8 hives, now has 30, largely due to catching swarms. He has harvested 500 pounds of honey so far. Chris - a new attendee, along with his wife. They have been beekeeping for one year. Gary - 23 hives, including 10 swarms. Has harvested 100 lbs of honey so far, another 100 lbs expected. Travis - 5 hives, including 1 swarm. He has started feeding. Peter - 4 hives, 2 had no brood, one recovered, one did not, so 3 healthy hives now. He has been feeding. Al -3 hives are okay; he has collected 20 gallons of honey He caught a swarm Sunday, which he is feeding. Dan H - 6 hives, 1 re-queened. He is currently feeding and hasn't yet harvested. Ken started with no hives and now has 4: 1 swarm arrived in its own, 2 he caught, and the 4th was provided by a friend. Dan P - Went from 7 hives to 6, the week hive had wax moth larvae, so we had a brief discussion on treatment: freezing, using a product (PeraMoth?), and exposure to open sun, as the larvae are killed by ultra-violet light. Other members generally report successful hives with lots of honey. The bees are definitely hungry! JoAnne Friedman reported that she was guest speaker at a Praise for Pollinators gathering at the Sheboygan Peace Park.

She will be speaking to the Glacial Lakes Conservancy on Oct 9 and at the upcoming ground breaking at Sheboygan Senior Center.

Program - Mark B. gave a program on catching swarms. He is a 15 year beekeeper who has captured 40 swarms in the past 3 years. He demonstrated his swarm boxes and presented a slide show on how and where he sets his boxes.

Topics for the Month -

Thanks to Terry for tonight's refreshments!

Motion to adjourn: Gary S.

Second: Peter D.

Raffle -

Next meeting is Tuesday, October 12th - 6:30 pm at NOURISH

Refreshments at the October meeting is Al Spindler and Carl & Lois Demmin

Program for October is a presentation by Sam Lammers regarding MAYWOOD.

Respectfully submitted by Elizabeth D for Kathy P.