

Sheboygan County Beekeepers Association

August 8, 2023

Minutes

Dan H called the meeting to order.

Attendance: 25

New members: none

Minutes - Minutes for July were sent to the membership and posted on the SCBA Website. No corrections were reported.

Treasurer's Report

Checking account balance - \$ 452.37

Savings account balance - \$ 1062.66

The change in balances reflects reimbursement for picnic food.

No motion was made as the numbers were not available at meeting time.

Motion to Accept:

Second:

Old Business -

- Pass around sign-up sheet for programs and refreshments. The refreshments sheet is full, but we have slots available for programs, if anyone is interested.
- Sign up to volunteer to help at Nourish??
- Dan P. announced that the honey extractor owned by the club is available for rent for \$10/day. It is a 3-frame hand-extractor; please contact Dan H. if you would like to rent it.
- Did anyone help at the State Fair? No.
- **Jamie Van Dyke (the veterinarian who talked to us in July regarding American Foul Brood) added an additional caution - Do Not feed honey to your hives if you do not know its source. AFB spores can be present in honey.**

Correspondence

- There have been numerous requests for help with bee removal (Including bumblebees). Ken and Pat have been responding to these requests. A few issues were discussed. One: bumblebee nests are annual and they will not return to a nest that has already been abandoned, although they might relocate to a nearby location. Two: the club received a call concerning a hive in the wall of a garage. Ken and Pat both visited the site; Pat volunteered to remove it, which turned out to be a real challenge. The hive was old, containing more than 6 feet of free comb with many thousands of bees. Pat brought a 7-frame nuc in order to transfer the bees; he moved them to another location and planned to return Thursday to see if there is any evidence of the queen. Ken recommended that Pat return tomorrow to search for the ball and then vacuum the remaining bees using Ken's bee vacuum to add them to the hive Pat created. Ken also mentioned that for future removals; leave the new hive on site if you can.
- Kurt received a phone call from a member of a Dodge County Beekeeping Club. He is calling around to get information from other clubs. He wanted to know if our club has insurance, and also are we a non-profit. **We don't yet have a firm answer to this question.**

New Business -

- Secretary - Kathy has been having a medical issue that continues to frustrate her since March. She hasn't been able to come to meetings because of it. Elizabeth has been generous enough to take notes (quite wonderful notes **THANKS!**) and send them to Kathy to send out. Kathy is hoping that someone will agree to do Minutes of the remaining meetings for this year. She would still be agreeable to send out the Minutes, do any correspondence with the membership, maintain the website and FB page, etc. We are wondering if someone would be willing to help out. No one offered, so Dan H said his wife could take notes in September. Elizabeth is able to take notes in October and the November meeting is our holiday pot luck, so we are set for the remainder of the year.

Questions sent from membership -

How are Dan H's hives doing, following the AFB encounter? **They are all doing very well.**

Does anyone have any experience with Fieldwatch? We haven't received any notification from them and a field near us was recently sprayed. **Jason said he receives regular emails from them, but renews his registration every year.**

[Editor's note: Fieldwatch is a non-profit company working in association with Purdue University that promotes communication among growers, seed companies, pesticide applicators, and beekeepers. You can sign up for notifications without becoming a member. Their website is <https://fieldwatch.com>]

Hive Reports -

August R. has installed his first hive (congratulations!) and it is doing very well.

Jessica has 3 hives, 2 of them brimming with honey. The third had a laying worker, so she purchased two frames of brood from Jason to mask the scent of the laying worker and bought a queen. The hive is now doing well.

Joann F. reports that the hive Dan H maintains on her property is doing well, She also reports that she was recently written about, along with Friends of the Peace Park, the Community Gardens, and the Parks and Forestry Division of the Department of Public Works, in the July 27th issue of the Sheboygan Press. The City of Sheboygan is now maintaining their lawns without the use of pesticides, which is excellent news. She asks that SCBA members encourage these efforts by sending a thank you to Joe Kerlin, of the Parks Department, and Ryan Sorenson, Sheboygan's Mayor.

Robyn, from Christopher Farm and Gardens, reports their observation hive is doing well, enjoyed by their many young visitors.

New beekeepers (working with Al, sorry I don't know your names) have 2 hives, new this year, that are doing okay.

Katherine: 8 hives doing well, 1 colony in a 25-frame horizontal hive swarmed for no apparent reason. Queen cells in the hive have hatched, so she may have a young queen,

Peter: 4 hives doing well.

Jason: 8 hives, 3 nucs, all very strong. 6 of them have been split 3 times this year. His honey production is down about 50% from last year due to lack of rainfall.

Dan H: 7 hives, all doing well

Ken: 3 hives, 1 absconded. He has lots of bees but nothing in the supers.

One member reports that a nearby farm recently changed hands and the fields were sprayed by helicopter at 3:30 on an afternoon without any warning. His 4 hives have been doing well up until now.

Another member reports that he took 100 lbs of honey, leaving the same amount on the hives. He has 3 hives; one was a purchased package, but the queen died. The other two successfully overwintered.

Other members mentioned that, having no local water source, they installed a solar fountain, which their bees visit early every morning,

Pat: 3 hives. 1 swarmed; he replaced the queen with a hygienic queen from Michigan. He did a split, distributing brood throughout the hives and provided fresh frames for new brood. He is waiting to see signs of whether he has a laying queen and received the following advice from other members:

Check to see if they are bringing in pollen.

The bees will begin foraging late if there is no queen (9:30 - 10:30 am)

If you are looking for a queen now, the time is very tight, but queens are available from Hansen Honey Farm in Rhinelander WI. They will overnight a queen to you.

Program - there was no program for this meeting

Raffle - Thanks to all who contributed to this month's raffle

Motion to adjourn: Peter

Second: Jason

Next meeting is the September 12th - 6:30 PM at Nourish

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Dietz for Kathy Peterson