

Mountain Empire Beekeepers Association

Minutes

November 19, 2015

President Mickey Cunningham called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm, Thursday, November 19, 2015, in Room 219, Grayson Hall, Wytheville Community College. [Meeting date and place change one time only.] Fifteen members attended.

Minutes of the October meeting were reviewed. It was moved, and seconded, to approve the minutes as posted on the MEBA website. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: None reported.

Old Business:

- Bulk sugar purchase discussed. Mick reported that he had meet with the manager of the Galax Walmart store. Members who want to purchase bulk sugar should send a check, made out to MEBA, for \$10/25 pound bag to Mickey Cunningham, 155 Bear Tree Lane, Troutdale, VA 24378. At this point a bulk purchase will be made through the Galax store. An expense information sheet is included with these minutes.
- Report of nominating committee. The following slate of officers was recommended for 2016: President, Tim Service; Vice-President, Gaynell Shawver; Treasurer, Mickey Cunningham; Secretary, Tina Cunningham. There were no nominations from the floor. It was moved and seconded that the slate be elected; motion carried.

New Business:

- There was no new business brought before the membership.

Discussion: Various management techniques.

- Counting mites: use a mite board, count how many are in one square inch, multiply by the number of squares.
- Corner protectors for supers: protectors allow use of hive tool to break out frames without damaging the corners of wood ware. Tim Service recommended staying away from corners until you get the frames loosened a little.
- Frame assembly and storage: Frames can be hung from racks; put in plastic bags, criss-cross and store in a cold area. Label plastic bags with the size of the frames, number, and drawn or wax frames.
- When feeding dry sugar and sugar candy with mineral salts added, make sure water is available. Mineral salts are available from Southern States (rabbit salt); can be hung in a tree.
- Order needed supplies early before the bee classes start to order to avoid back-orders. If ordering from Brush Mountain, let them know you're a MEBA member.
- Feeding sugar candy: place on top of frames, slipping it in from the back.
- Put mouse guards on now with entrance reducers.
- If you keep a mite board in all winter, take it out and clean it once a month. A T-shaped tool can also be used to clean the bottom board.
- Use warm water to make sugar water when you feed on cold mornings.
- For a cold-weather nectar/pollen source, plant winter camellias. They are available from Mitchell Nursery, 1088 W. Dalton Rd, King, North Carolina 27021 phone: 336-983-4107, www.mitchellnurseryandgreenhouse.com.

Announcements:

Dues for 2016 membership will be collected at the January meeting; cash or check, please. Dues are \$11 local membership, \$20 local and state membership.

Raffle: a raffle was held at the end of the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Cunningham

Secretary, MEBA