

## MT. EMPIRE BEEKEEPER'S ASSOCIATION

Minutes  
August, 2010

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Bernie Bradley.

### Treasurer Report:

Janice reports that we currently have 134 members; and \$3,509.64 in our treasury. She passed a list of those who had a balance due to MEBA and who owed dues for VSBA. Members were asked if they wished to purchase caps. Janice will come up with a design for new caps for MEBA.

Bernie mentioned that he would like to start a "library" which would include new informational DVD's that could be checked out by members. He estimates the cost of this to be \$200.00 - \$300.00. A motion was made and passed to allocate money for this project.

### Secretary Report:

The minutes of the last meeting were presented for review. Sharon checked with attendees to be sure that each one was getting meeting notices either via e-mail or snail mail.

### TIC Status

To date, no one has received reimbursement of funds from the grant money. Bernie gave contact information for several people, and encouraged members to contact these people. Based on what Bernie was told, we should begin receiving money within the next 2-3 weeks. As of 2 weeks ago, there was still \$28,000.00 for unallocated money that can be applied for at this time.

### Election Committee

Bernie has assigned the executive committee as the election committee. Members are encouraged to contact anyone on the executive committee if they wish to volunteer for a position, or would like to nominate someone for a position. Janice has agreed to continue as Treasurer; Cathy Wheeler has agreed to serve as Secretary.

### The Bees

Treating for Varroa Mites – mite treatment should begin after removing honey from hives. The group discussed the use of powdered sugar, thymol and formic acid. Research indicates that without treating, most hives don't survive beyond the 3<sup>rd</sup> year. First year hives can be chemically treated if they are very strong. Powdered sugar is a good option for any size hive. When using powdered sugar, treat every 5 days for 15 days for effectiveness. Remember that chemical treatments are often temperature sensitive – be sure to follow directions.

Weak hives – a weak hive this time of the year has only 5 – 10% chance of survival. It is best to consolidate weak hives with stronger hives to save the bees.

Fall Feeding – feed each hive a total of 5 gal. of 2:1 sugar syrup. The bees won't eat it if they don't need it. Feeding one pollen patty this time of year will trick the hive into thinking there is a flow and the queen will "crank up" through September, significantly increasing the number of bees to prepare for winter. Essential oils such as lemongrass oil, wintergreen oil, spearmint oil & eucalyptus oil can also be added to syrup. Wintergreen is effective against tracheal mites.

Entrance reducers should be added to all hives by the first frost to keep mice out.

Other group discussion included treating equipment for wax moths and reversing hive body in preparation for winter.

Drawing was held for the door prize – a beekeeping book.

Thanks to Tenson and Pat Frost for wonderful refreshments. Glen Repass will take care of refreshments for the next meeting.

We had 60 attendees at tonight's meeting.

Our next meeting will be held on September 23, 2010.