

MT. EMPIRE BEEKEEPER'S ASSOCIATION
MINUTES
NOVEMBER 18, 2010

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

Treasurer's Report: Janice reports that we currently have \$3,282.59 in the treasury and 138 members. She presented hat designs for members to select. Dues for 2011 are due now.

Secretary's Report: Sharon presented the minutes from the last meeting and encouraged members to watch the web site for members who would have bees, nucs and equipment for sale in the early spring.

Election of 2011 Officers: The proposed slate of officers for 2011 was presented:

President – Tim Spraker
Vice President – Eric Benjamin
Treasurer – Janice McGrath
Secretary – Cathy Wheeler

Without further nominations, a motion was made that this slate of officers be accepted. The motion passed unanimously.

Bernie thanked this year's officers for their hard work and dedication.

Year End Review: Bernie thanked all those who have stepped in to help with all events in 2010. Special thanks were offered to Mr. & Mrs. Clippard and to Carol and Michael Easter.

Bernie reviewed our goals for 2010, then detailed the outcomes of those goals:

TIC Grant: To date \$94,500.00 has been dispersed to 276 beekeepers. This includes 140 new beekeepers and 136 established beekeepers. By the end of the year, \$112,369.00 will be paid out.

VSBA State Conference hosted by MEBA: The conference was deemed a "huge success". There were 135 attendees. VSBA was very pleased with the conference.

Beginner's Beekeeping Class: The 2010 class more than doubled from the previous year, with 65 participants. Our 2009 class had 28 participants.

MEBA Spring Workshop: Our workshop, graciously hosted by Mr. & Mrs. Clippard, included 89 participants from 3 states.

Family Picnic: We had approximately 50 attendees at our July picnic

Increase in membership: We had 74 members at the beginning of the year and have increased to 138 members to date. We are currently the third largest association in Virginia.

Increased Treasury: At the end of January, 2010, we had \$1,083.60 in our treasury; we currently have \$3,282.59.

Expanded Beekeeping: On behalf of MEBA, Bernie has assisted beekeeping organizations in Abingdon, VA, Michigan, Arkansas, Idaho, Australia and New Zealand. He has helped set up new beekeeping classes in Michigan, Pennsylvania, Mississippi, Virginia and Idaho. He granted permission to 14 organizations to copy the MEBA Constitution and By Laws. He made beekeeping presentations to schools, library groups, Master Gardener's Association, Boy Scout troops and other beekeeping organizations. He petitioned BSA to re-institute the Beekeeping Merit Badge in their program.

Expand MEBA Library: Our library of resource materials is a work in progress with many new titles being added this year. A resource list will be posted on our web site. Members can check out materials from the organization's secretary.

Streamlined MEBA Administration: We have changed to calendar-year accounting; improved our accounting methods; instituted a new Constitution and By Laws; and generated computerized mailing lists for the treasurer and secretary.

Bernie introduced our new officers for 2011. They will take over on January 1, 2011. Tim Spraker, president-elect, expressed his appreciation to Bernie for all he has done for our organization and for new and established beekeeper's.

The next meeting will be announced on our web site. Members will be notified by e-mail or regular mail. Time and place will be dependent on availability of space at WCC.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Thanks to Janice McGrath for providing a full table of wonderful refreshments.