

Mountain Empire Beekeepers Association
Minutes
November 17, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by Vice-President Gaynell Shawver. Twenty members were in attendance.

There was no bee biology pop quiz.

Bees in the News

- Virginia Tech is doing research on the effect of pesticides on brood; the research was reported in the Virginia Tech Agriculture and Life Sciences magazine.
- An attempted nighttime robbery was foiled when the would-be robber jumped over the homeowner's fence--onto his bee hives.

Old Business: none.

New Business:

- There was a request to begin meetings at 6:30 pm during the winter months. This was tabled until the January meeting.
- Tina Cunningham, Secretary, reported that the web site has been changed from .com to .org; using .com will route to .org. The name and hosting has been renewed and paid for through 2021.
- Mick Cunningham requested that two members be in attendance at each Basic Beekeeping class to mentor students and answer questions during the break and after the class.

Minutes. The minutes were approved as written.

Treasurer's Report. Balance \$2,273.40. Mick Cunningham reported that the treasury is about \$1,000 ahead of this time last year. Filed for audit. Per request, the total collected for monthly raffles this year is \$715.00; expenditures were \$431.

What We Should Be Doing This Month

- Switch from syrup to fondant or sugar (fondant recipe is on web site).
- To feed sugar or waste honey: put wax paper on top of frames, sprinkle with sugar, and drizzle with corn syrup or waste honey.
- To provide water for hive: use a think, cellulose sponge (Dollar General has cheap ones), soak in water, and squeeze out.
- Eural reported he lost two hives (deadouts); is currently top feeding two. He invited members to go by the Visitor's Center in Wytheville to see his observation hives readied for winter. He also reported that his farm is for sale and he doesn't know if it will be available for the spring workshop.
- Mick reported he has 13 hives with no queen over six months old.

Election of Officers: the following slate of officers was presented:

- President: Tim Service
- Vice-President: Gaynell Shawver
- Secretary: Connie Armentrout
- Treasurer: Mick Cunningham
- Librarian: Lynda Bracken

Mick moved, seconded by Tina Cunningham, that the slate be accepted. Motion passed unanimously.

Honey Tasting: we tasted nine honeys ranging from very light to dark.

Raffle: 4 items were raffled.

The next meeting will be January 26, 2017. Mick will reserve the meeting room.

Adjourned at 7:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Cunningham
Secretary, MEBA