

Mountain Empire Beekeepers Association

Minutes

January 26, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Anthony Ellis, MEBA President at Wytheville Community College, in Smyth Hall room 122. 21 members were present.

**Minutes:** A motion was made to approve the minutes by Mickey Cunningham, and was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Drew White.

**Speaker:** Meghan Milbrath [www.sandhillbees.com](http://www.sandhillbees.com)

**Presentation:** Dealing With Deadouts <https://americanbeejournal.com/dealing-with-deadouts/>  
<https://www.honeybeesuite.com/ick-mold-in-my-hive/>

**Old Business:**

- A motion was made by Cathy Hounshell and seconded by Drew White to change the dues year. Dues will be prorated in the fall. Bee class members will be good on dues the year they take the class. The year for dues will run from January 1 to December 31. Dues for MEBA will be \$11.00.
- The trifold needs to be redone. Wytheville Word Print may have the original. We need members to submit pictures of people extracting, going into their hives or food service with honey. Pictures of flowers, shrubs or trees that bees like are also needed too.

**New Business:**

- The Bee Class will run February 28-March 28, 2023. April 4 will be a makeup should there be any inclement weather.
- Tim Service is going in March to pick up package bees with queens for about \$150.00 if anyone is interested. [canoemaker@centurylink.net](mailto:canoemaker@centurylink.net)
- A motion was made by Mickey Cunningham to have \$200.00 to procure items for the bee class raffle. It was seconded by Drew White.
- Mickey Cunningham shared that Crimson Clover (annual) is great for bees, but not the perennial Crimson Clover. He suggested that those of us who want to purchase some do so in bulk together in order to save money. \$10.25 per lb.
- Dr. Tignor with VSBA did research that shows sunflowers tend to keep the varroa mite population down get your seeds early!
- Do not feed pollen or protein supplements in September or October.
- A motion for consideration as "How to Conduct Basic Bee Class" for the next five (5) years

“Whereas part of the mission for Mountain Empire Beekeepers Associations (association) is to help new beekeepers to become established, therefore, I move that the tuition cost be set at \$47.00 per student and family discount be set at \$75.00 and family tuition provides maximum of two textbooks per family. Duration of this motion is not to exceed five (5) years from January 26, 2023. (Second required here)

Discussion: Purpose of this motion is to aid class recruitment on a multiyear basis. Also, this motion is not to limit the powers of the executive committee on a biennial basis to adjust tuition based upon the economy and the development of a new textbook.

Perception from recruiting this year is that more persons will be retiring to the area covered by the association and that when discussion on the class reaches price for tuition it should remain stable for at least two years. Secondly, this motion will allow our membership to talk to other persons with assurance of facts about our educational program.” *This motion has been tabled for 2 months.*

**Raffle Winners:**

Top insulator– Darlene Lockard

2021 Bee Culture magazine – Darlene Lockard

Hive box woodenware – Jeff Wyatt

Mouse guard/anti-robbing screen – Drew White

Candy screen top feeder – Maston Parke

**Next meeting:** Thursday February 23, 2023 at Wytheville Community College in Smyth Hall room 122.

**Adjourned:** at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Armentrout, MEBA Secretary