

Sussex County Beekeepers Association-- Minutes of the October 27, 2012 Meeting

The October 27, 2012 SCBA meeting, held at the Sussex County Fair Administration Building, began at 11:18 am.

Attendance: Tony Albanese, Edward Balogh, Debbie Cowell, JC Cowell, Don Drake, Gilles Fenczak, Karen Fenczak, Jim Ferlauto, Bob Fogg, John Harrison, Bonnie Jaspar, David Kunz, Eileen Liddell, Karen Longo, Joel Medina, Bernhard Oesen, Carol Oesen, Mark Orce, Lorraine Ponce, Louis Ponce, Gary Roemer, Marsha Roemer, Scott Sedar, Chris Tomlinson, Denise Webb.

President Chris Tomlinson presented the topics for this business meeting: Open Officer Positions, Calendar 2013, Seasonal hive topics and Open topics. It was noted the SCBA currently has 104 members.

Officer Election Openings

Chris Tomlinson-This is a group club and therefore, we can decide if there is need to nominate officers or use the traditional method of officers moving up. It was motioned by Mark Orce and seconded by Karen Longo to use the traditional method. The motion was carried.

Officers hold their positions for two years excepting the Treasurer and Secretary. Treasurer Roman Osadca and Secretary Marsha Roemer have agreed to continue in their positions. Moving up in positions will be Deb Cowell as President, Liz Bissacio as First Vice-President (activities) and LeeAnn Coleman as Second Vice-President (fair organization). Dave Kunz offered to fill the open position of Third Vice-President (which is a learning position and, as officer, fills in where needed). A Motion for Dave Kunz to fill the position was made by Mark Orce and seconded by Marsha Roemer. The motion was carried.

The current balance in the bank account is an accumulation of fifteen year's work. It is preferable to keep these funds for use within the Club rather than making them available for donations or sponsorships.

Holiday Dinner-Dinners are complimentary for those members that worked a total of eight hours during the fair. For all others, the cost will be \$37.50. Denise Webb, Holiday Dinner Chair, will be accepting dinner payments after the meeting. It was decided the Club will continue to offer this dinner as a thank you for all members that work a total of eight hours during next year's fair.

Calendar 2013/Chris Tomlinson-The following is the schedule for 2013:

January 19 General Meeting; February 16 topic to be determined; March 9 and 16 with a snow date of March 23 Introduction to Beekeeping Course; April date and topic to be determined; May 18 Spring Management; June 8 and 9 with rain dates June 15 and 16 Local Queen Breeding; July 6 Honey Harvest Demonstration; July 20 Sussex County Fairgrounds/honey bee exhibit booth preliminary setup; August 1 Sussex County Fairgrounds/honey bee exhibit booth final setup; August 2 through 11 Sussex County Farm and Horse Show/NJ State Fair; September 21 Joint meeting with Southeastern NY Beekeepers; October 12 Harvest and Honey Festival; October 19 General Meeting.

Members agree to continue meeting every month but would like those meetings to be educational for both new and experienced beekeepers. Some suggestions for future topics and guest speakers included apitherapy, small hive beetle, winter preparation and an entomologist with microscope/overhead projector.

Seasonal Hive Topics

Small Hive Beetle-Beetle traps work to a point, but most important are strong hives.

Winter Prep-Hives need to be heavy. Screened bottoms and vented inner covers help with moisture issues.

Open Topics

Members are interested in learning the percentage of beekeepers in Sussex County that are not part of SCBA. Louis Ponce brought to the attention of the members some news articles including one about the “zombie” bee disease.

Chris Tomlinson-All beekeepers need to register their hives with the state. Tim Schuler, state apiarist, can inspect any hive in NJ. This past season, Tim inspected as many hives as possible working around his schedule and the weather. He also has been training Mat Wingle and JC Cowell to assist him in inspecting SCBA member’s hives.

Some states have been passing legislature to limit or restrict beekeeping. There is a movement across this country to regulate beekeeping in every aspect which includes, but is not limited to, requiring the beekeeper to have insurance and be licensed. Tim Schuler and Seth Belson(NJBA) are our point individuals for beekeeping regulations. They need to be alerted with any information we hear regarding regulation attempts.

The North American Beekeeping Conference and Tradeshow will be meeting in Hershey, PA January 8 through 12, 2013.

The membership gave thanks and applause to Chris Tomlinson for being our President for the past two years.

The meeting adjourned at 1:05 pm.

Marsha Roemer, Secretary