

Hello Bill and Dawn, Following please find the minutes, for your review, of our first meeting held at the School of Conservation. We have been teased with a few relatively warmer days here and there. Can't wait for spring to arrive. Hope all is well, Marsha Roemer

Sussex County Beekeepers Association--Regular Meeting Minutes of January 16, 2010

The meeting was held at the School of Conservation in Stokes Forest beginning at 1:15pm.

Officers in attendance: Chris Tomlinson 2nd Vice President, Marsha Roemer, Secretary, Deb Brodhecker, Newsletter Editor

Treasurer's Report--The checking account balance is \$11,604.62; the saving account balance is \$5,691.32.

A welcome from the School of Conservation: Chris Tomlinson relayed the SOC is excited to have us on board, they would like to be involved with some experimental bee research and will pay for the electricity of the bear fence.

Old Business:

Feather Banners--Chris Tomlinson is waiting to hear from Bill Foley regarding the ownership of the JPEG image of the new logo.

Tent--Nancy Olsen reported the cost to repair the old tent or purchase a new one would be approximately the same. Tom Webb will bring to the next meeting some tent brochures.

New Business:

Some questions raised by Chris Tomlinson were: What is SCBA's mission? What is SCBA's agenda?

Apiary to be at SOC--Tom Webb cautioned perhaps only two to three hives could be sustained with the available forage at this site. Deb Brodhecker suggested starting with two hives and watching them carefully to insure their progress. It was decided to begin this year with two hives using the generally accepted standard type of bee hive vs. a top bar and an exclusively holistic approach. Some members showed interest in hearing about the different holistic approaches. Chris Tomlinson suggested the use of local bees for these hives.

Chris Tomlinson will check with SOC regarding what bee friendly plants SCBA would be permitted to raise.

There was discussion about applying for grants, and it appears SCBA needs to begin the process now in anticipation of next year.

Short course--a course name change of Introduction to Beekeeping was discussed. Deb Brodhecker suggested that one person instruct the intro course using the same procedure of beekeeping throughout so as not to confuse the students.

Deb recommended Bob Burkard based upon his past experience with the course and his availability on the course dates of March 13, March 20 with a snow date of March 27. Motioned by Gary Roemer. Seconded by another member. Approved.

Discussion arose to limit the intro course to new students only. If occupancy limits permit, then interested current members may attend as well.

As continuing education experience for the new beekeepers, an installation of a bee package will occur at the SOC on Sunday, April 11, 2010 at 1pm. This will take the place of our April meeting. Motioned by Gary Roemer. Seconded by Chris Tomlinson. Approved.

Ken Warren suggested that two months after the intro course a more advanced followup course would be beneficial.

Chris Tomlinson would like to have a guest speaker for future meetings. He submitted having Ross Conrad, author of "Natural Beekeeping" speak on Sunday, March 21, 2010 at SOC. Motioned by Matt Wingie. Seconded by Gary Roemer. Approved.

At the next meeting Tom Webb will bring information on a beginning beekeeping book that he feels is currently the best on the market.

Tom Webb proposed having a second apiary to be located at Lusscroft Farm, Nielson Road in Wantage. The advantages there are fields and a root cellar where the hives could be stored in the winter. This would be in partnership with The Heritage and Agriculture Association (Friends of Lusscroft Farm). A motion to investigate the feasibility and cost for these two hives to be conducted by Marsha Roemer as liaison between the two associations. Motioned by Nancy Olsen. Seconded by Matt Wingie. Approved.

Due to the SOC having children there in attendance, Deb Brodhecker questioned what security protocol would be needed for SCBA members to be on the grounds to inspect/feed the hives. Chris Tomlinson will consult with SOC on this matter.

The meeting disbanded at 3:10pm.