

West Sound Beekeepers Association Minutes
Executive Board meeting
Blue Agave Mexican Grill, Port Orchard, WA
March 8, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 6:17 P.M.

Present: President George Purkett, Vice President Sophi Gwynne, Treasurer Bob Finley, Secretary and Newsletter Editor Janet Finley, and Trustees Joe Gwynne and Darlene Stiffey. Quorum achieved.

The meeting was held as there was insufficient time during the regular February 20 Board meeting to discuss agenda items.

TOPIC 1: APIARY MANAGER

- With the recent resignation of Fred Drewien as Apiary Manager, reason unknown, the WSBA Apiary is without a guiding hand to support educational activities or to care for the existing hives that are expected to over-winter. Sophi and George made a proposal, and the Board discussed it.

Motion: George Purkett will trade title position on the Board with Sophi Gwynne, thereby becoming Vice President, which will free up his responsibilities, and Sophi Gwynne will become President.

Motion moved, seconded, and carried unanimously.

Motion: George Purkett will assume the role of Apiary Manager, which will allow him to support educational events and fund raising activities.

Motion moved, seconded, and carried unanimously.

TOPIC 2: ADDING A-Z HIVES TO THE APIARY

- Members Debra Langley-Boyer and Dana Schack proposed adding two Slovenian A-Z hives to the WSBA Apiary and raised funds to partially support the effort. Dana built much of the hive structure, but an enclosure is still needed to be built at an anticipated cost of \$400 for materials. Another \$130 for a starter bee population and approximately \$50 for sugar is needed. Much discussion by the Board on the topic of hive style, need, budget, delaying the project, and educational value.

Motion: That the WSBA will fund the A-Z two-hive project during 2018, although it is not in the 2018 budget, with funds from savings.

Motion moved, seconded, and rejected 5:1.

Motion: That the WSBA will fund the A-Z two-hive project during 2018 using budgeted monies from the Apiary's line items with the understanding that budgeted funds are finite.

Motion moved, seconded, and carried unanimously.

TOPIC 3: MEMBERSHIP

- Bob Finley reported that with 71 students taking the Apprentice Beekeeper Course and 48 membership renewals, the WSBA has only 119 members. This trend for memberships decline has been ongoing with only 2 members remaining from the 2014 class, 6 from 2015, 5 from 2016, and only 9 from the 2017 class. We seem to have a core membership of about 26 active members.
- Discussion on retention techniques and what advantages come from belonging to the WSBA beyond the first year of beginner classes.
- Sophi and Joe Gwynne will craft a series of questions in a Survey Monkey format and seek feedback from the database.
- Discussion on issuing membership cards annually to active members that may be used at various beekeeping publications and equipment suppliers, if those businesses support discounts to beekeeping organizations.

TOPIC 4: PALMER QUEENS

- Discussion on the purchase of 32 Palmer Queens sent from Vermont, as done in 2017, with distribution to club members in good standing for a reasonable price. George wants two Palmer Queens to be reserved for the Apiary.
- George will contact Michael Palmer to reserve the Queens.

TOPIC 5: APIARY SIZE

- Discussion of how many hives are needed in the Apiary to support educational activities and Queen Rearing classes, with the general agreement that volunteer efforts were over burdened in 2017 with 37 hives of varying styles.
- George recommends 20 Langstroth hives, 2 Warre hives, 1-2 Top-Bar hives, and the population of 1-2 A-Z hives. Logzilla is a oddity and rarely supports a colony.
- Bob Finley will register with state officials the number of 25 hives in the WSBA Apiary. The registration must be submitted by April 1.

TOPIC 6: APPRENTICE BEEKEEPER COURSE

- An additional Hands-on class has been added to the four Saturday classes for students either unable to attend on a Saturday or are conflicted by the activity held during Easter Week. The additional class will be held on Tuesday, April 10 at 5:00 PM in the Apiary.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Minutes submitted by Janet Finley