

West Sound Beekeepers Association Minutes
Board Meeting
Stedman's Bee Supply, Silverdale WA
June 11, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM.

Quorum Present: President Sophi Gwynne, Vice President George Purkett, Treasurer Bob Finley, Secretary Janet Finley; and Trustees Joe Gwynne, and Lucia Olson, were present. Education Committee Chair Shaari Unger and Librarian Sherry Whybark were also present.

The minutes from the May 14, 2018 Board Meeting were accepted.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Sophi Gwynne

- The WSBA survey period has closed. The survey was distributed to past and present WSBA members, and 50% of the respondents were from each group. The provider, Survey Monkey, is still returning results.
- The new WSBA website, developed by Joe Gwynne and edited by several, has been temporarily launched with a link on the first page of the old website. George Purkett will finalize the removal of the old site so that the web address of westsoundbees.org can be finally used for the new site.
 - Registration for classes and events is now possible through the website
 - A calendar of events is posted to clearly list activities
 - Joe has been able to post videos and educational demonstrations
- The Kitsap Country Fair and Stampede will be held August 22-26, and Brenda Smith will be managing the WSBA booth again, as she has expertly done in years past. She is scheduling volunteers to represent the Association at the booth for each day of the fair.
- An Audit Committee has been formed, as required by the WSBA bylaws, to review and approve the financial records of our Association. Gordon Cromwell and John Sasser have agreed to serve on this Committee, and they will meet with Treasurer Bob Finley sometime in September.

VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT: George Purkett

- George has begun educating interested inmates at Mission Creek Correctional Center in beekeeping practices, and 18 students are attending his class. He hopes that last year's class will provide mentoring support to this year's beginners.

APIARY MANAGER'S REPORT: George Purkett

- George reports the 12-session Queen Rearing course is going well, and he is considering repeating the course in the future with a division of students focused on different techniques of developing queen cells.

- Four colonies, clustered in one area of the WSBA Apiary, have now been found to have European Foul Brood symptoms. George is working with a veterinarian in Port Orchard, who is also a beekeeper, to fill out the necessary documentation and prescription forms to acquire medication to treat the hives.

SECRETARY REPORT: Janet Finley

- Janet worked with the outgoing and incoming President of Washington State Beekeepers Association to record the test scores of students who successfully completed our February Apprentice Beekeeper Course, and the certificates and patches arrived this week. Ellen Miller, the WASBA Education Chair, was instrumental in quickly responding with the certificates.
- Flyers, Facebook notices, website postings, targeted emails, and the monthly newsletter have all been used as informational tools to announce dates, descriptions, and changes to Apiary classes.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Bob Finley

- The total of WSBA funds at the end of April stands at \$21,899.70 spread between savings, checking, and Marketfund accounts, although checks in the amount of \$1,698.52 are still outstanding and anticipated reimbursements for recent expenses have not been yet submitted.
- Discussion on funding laminated posters and three display easels, approximately \$225 for community outreach presentations.

MOTION: To fund the purchase of three easels and cover the cost to laminate with grommets the display posters for a total of approximately \$225.

Motion moved, seconded, and carried unanimously.

- The Treasurer's report was accepted.

OLD BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS:

- The annual summer picnic will once again be held at the home of Bob and Janet Finley in Bremerton. The date is August 18, and it was discussed to forego the expense of renting a grill and tables this year as many members have units to volunteer. The time will be from 10-2 PM.
- The topic of selling colorful, 18-month 2019 WSBA calendars at the Kitsap County Fair and Stampede in August was discussed. Sophi will confirm the cost for printing 250 calendars through her sources.
- The question of having beekeeping insurance for our Association and Apiary was once again addressed. Too long the issue has been tabled, and quotes and suppliers are being assembled. Along with that question of possible liability, the advisability of signage in the approach to our Apiary was discussed. Janet will provide Sophi with sign verbiage recommended by the Washington Farm Bureau.

- Discussion on the idea, put forth by member Debra Langley-Boyer, for the Apiary to purchase Saskatraz queen bees, a Russian hybrid, from a supplier in Northern California with the intent of expanding the genetic pool in our area. The general consensus was that, while members may personally purchase honeybee stock from various sources, the Apiary will proceed cautiously. Our ability to winter over colonies isn't guaranteed so any advantage to new genetic lines is in theory only. Note: It is within the budget of the Apiary Manager to purchase Saskatraz queens or packages if they are desired.
- Discussion on the lack of a formal agreement with Stedman's Bee Supplies or the Stedman family on the use of their facilities and property. With the Association gaining in activity and action, the disruption to the Stedmans may be burdensome to the family and business. We use their parking lot, bathroom, storeroom space, utilities, meeting room, and have our Apiary at the back of their property. In the past year our Association has increased the size and scope of the Apiary, added a large garden site, planted trees, erected a gazebo, improved the shed and windmill, and now is considering benches. All this while their beekeeping supply business is being adversely affected by variant hive styles not supported by their inventory, national chain farm supply stores that have come into the community undercutting prices, and the acquiring of packages, nucs, and individual queen bees from sources other than Stedman's. George will discuss with Paul the idea of the WSBA paying Stedman's a stipend or rent for the use of their facilities.
- The topic of business cards was once again raised; and Sophi offered various designs, which were provided for discussion.

Board meeting adjourned at 7:23 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Finley,
WSBA Secretary