

West Sound Beekeepers Association Minutes
Board Meeting
Stedman's Bee Supply, Silverdale WA
February 20, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 P.M.

Quorum Present: President George Purkett, Vice President Sophi Gwynne, Treasurer Bob Finley, Secretary Janet Finley; and Trustees Joe Gwynne, Lucia Olson, and Darlene Stiffey were present. Past President Frank Wilson has determined that he is no longer to be seated on the Board as the bylaws make no provision for his seat following a second elected term for the President; therefore, the WSBA has now only seven voting members on the Board.

The minutes from the January 16, 2018 Board Meeting, electronically distributed, were accepted.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Bob Finley

- The total of WSBA funds at the end of January stands at \$17,540.67 spread between savings, checking, and Marketfund accounts.
- Income was from advance registrations for the Apprentice Beekeeper Course (ABC).
- Member count for 2018: 38 renewing memberships, and 31 new memberships from course registrations. Total: 69
- The WA State annual report and Non-Profit annual report with fee have been submitted prior to deadlines.
- Number of anticipated hives in the WSBA Apiary is needed to submit local registration forms and fee.

APIARY MANAGER'S REPORT: Fred and Christine Drewien

- No Report

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: George Purkett

- No Report

VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Sophi Gwynne

- Education Committee Co-Chairs Darlene Stiffey and Shaari Unger are busy preparing updated slides and training presentations for the ABC to begin February 27.

SECRETARY REPORT: Janet Finley

- Newsletters, reminders, and announcements have been digitally distributed throughout the month by email and Facebook postings.
- Certificates for past ABC, 2014-2017, not picked up during meetings or events have been digitally scanned and emailed to students where contact information is still valid.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE: Shaari Unger and Darlene Stiffey

- As indicated above, materials and speakers for the ABC are being updated and reviewed.
- Instructors needed for upcoming educational events and classes. A list of needs and short article of explanation will be submitted to the Secretary for insertion in upcoming newsletters.
- An appeal was made for helpers to set up and register students for the first night of the ABC, meeting at the church gym at 4:15 PM.

OLD BUSINESS:

- TOPIC 1: LIABILITY INSURANCE

Frank Wilson is working at finding coverage for our Association's Apiary. WA State legislation intended to protect from liability agricultural entities and small farms serving the public for educational purposes or profit has failed to pass. *American Bee Journal* has few options for insurers. Member Charles Schafer, in attendance, reports that he insures his farm with a company from Texas with an annual cost of approximately \$600. Frank will investigate this lead.

- TOPIC 2: PORTA-POTTY

Discussion of the possibility that rather than a rented porta-potty priced at \$150 per month, an appeal would be made to members for an unused camper with bathroom facilities that could be parked near the Apiary during months of need. The association would be responsible to maintain the gray and black water tanks. Advantages over a porta-potty would be having space for changing in and out of beekeeping gear, having storage for a first aid station for bee stings, and the ability to lock the unit when not in use. The Stedman Family will be consulted for permission before an appeal is made.

NEW BUSINESS:

- TOPIC 1: APISTAN STRIPS

The topic of whether the Association would once again provide free Apistan strips to its members when packages of bees were purchased on Package Day through Stedmans. The cost during 2017 was nearly \$900. Janet Finley spoke out that providing this free product two years running could be seen as setting a precedent, that Stedman's Bee Supplies makes the strips available and sells them to their profit, and that the few members that renew their memberships simply to get the free strips doesn't outweigh the expenditure. Discussion on the favorable effect the strips had on colony survival, so the decision was made to not freely give the strips, but to heavily encourage and promote usage of Apistan strips during the ABC, in newsletters, and on the WSBA Facebook page.

- TOPIC 6: STANDING RULES

President George Purkett proposed the idea of establishing standing rules for approved spending of WSBA funds on non-budgeted items. The system he proposed would have seven levels of status, be managed by the WSBA Vice

President, and would also establish procedures, guidelines, rules, general policies, requirements for supporting events, and rules for hosting classes in the Apiary. Discussion was brisk on status documentation, legal responsibilities, secure storage of records, responsibility of management, and whether such a legalistic approach to association business should be adopted by a group with a membership currently under 100 members. It was determined that the standing rule approach would not be a good fit for our association, but that “Pass Down Binders” maintained by each officer and committee chair would outline current practices, procedures, and projects to maintain a continuity of association history. Any non-budget expenditure of WSBA funds would be voted upon and documented in our Board minutes as per the recently updated bylaws.

- TOPIC 7: APIARY SIGNAGE

The discussion on liability prompted the discussion of whether our Apiary should have warning signage to alert visitors, delivery persons, volunteers, students, or others of the potential danger of honeybee stings. No action was taken, but the general consensus was that posting the area would be advisable.

- TOPIC 8: GYPSY MOTH SPRAYING

A visitor to our Board meeting, Mary Kline, brought to our attention that there is planned aerial spraying of BT, a natural soil bacteria, to combat gypsy moth infestations in a limited area of our county. The targeted area is Bangor Naval Base and the Olympic View area to the SW of Bangor Base. Dates of spraying is yet undetermined and depends on local weather patterns and the development of gypsy moth larva. Janet Finley will publish information on this issue in upcoming editions of the WSBA newsletter, post to the WSBA Facebook page, and give website links where additional information and alerts can be accessed.

Board meeting adjourned at 6:57 PM.

The General Membership meeting followed at 7:00 PM with Vice President Sophi Gwynne chairing the open discussion. No special presentation was scheduled, so the meeting ended at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Finley,
WSBA Secretary