

West Sound Beekeepers Association Minutes  
Board Meeting  
Yacht Club Broiler Restaurant, Silverdale WA 98383  
April 15, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 6:15 PM.

Quorum Present: President Sophi Gwynne, Treasurer Bob Finley, Secretary Janet Finley; and Trustees Joe Gwynne and Gordon Cromwell; Apiary Manager, George Purkett.

The minutes from the March 19, 2019 Board meeting were accepted.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Sophi Gwynne

- Sophi, who represents our district as WASBA Director Area 1B, spoke about a recent 5-hour WASBA Board conference call that discussed the history and relationship between WASBA and Washington Master Beekeepers, recent updates to the manuals and curriculum of the various levels of the Master Beekeeper Course, and other items on their agenda. The relevant information to our group is that the manuals, slide notes, and test questions are flexible to editing for our individual climate, foliage, and conditions.

VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Dana Schack

- Dana Schack and Gordon Cromwell are lining up speakers and topics for our monthly membership meetings, and are supporting our new beekeepers with applicable training. The topic of the April 16 meeting will be "Hiving Bee Packages" and the topic for the May 21 meeting will be "Controlling Swarms and Making Splits."
- Dana would like to launch a survey to our members to discover what topics are most desired.
- Janet was asked to send out an alert to the members prior to the membership meeting to notify of the upcoming topic, and she asked that she be given the information early enough to also include it in the newsletter.

SECRETARY REPORT: Janet Finley

- The code to the storage cabinet lockbox was communicated to all present.
- 90 students began the Beginning Beekeeper Course and 84 successfully completed the requirements for certification.
- Discussion with Ellen Miller and Jenifer Priest with the WASBA about feedback on Beginning Beekeeper Course testing errors, problem information, and area-specific descriptions. They were very receptive to the critique. Also, discussion with WASBA on Apprentice and Journeyman level course materials.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Bob Finley

- Total of WSBA funds at the end of January stands at \$19,283.82, although checks in the amount of \$1,237.59 and deposits of \$165.00 are still outstanding.
- A check for \$1680 will be submitted to the WASBA along with the Beginning Beekeeper students' contact information and test scores.
- Only 23 percent of our 2018 membership have renewed for 2019. Janet will send out a reminder appeal to all those members who have not renewed their membership.
- Bob reimbursed the Silverdale United Methodist Church \$650 rather than \$700 for the rental of the meeting space for the Beginning Beekeeper Course, and was given a \$50 price break because the Church moved us to a smaller meeting space for two of the seven weeks.
- Joe Gwynne recounted his online ordering of the components to support the new sound system, and explained that a return postage charge of approximately \$60 was incurred. As the authorized amount "not to exceed" to purchase the system is \$1500, there may not need to have additional funds approved to reimburse Joe.

APIARY REPORT: George Purkett

- A group of members interested in earning certification at the Journeyman level of the WA State Beekeeper's Master Beekeeper program have been notified of a first meeting to be held on Tuesday, April 16 at 6 PM, directly prior to the general membership meeting. 29 interested members responded.
- A huge thanks was given to George Purkett for conducting the five separate Hands-on Classes in the Apiary as part of the Beginning Beekeeper Course. It rained steadily at each event. George suggested that next year all the hands-on classes be held on one long day with students rotating between different tutorials and stations.
- A suggestion was made that as a club we should introduce to our Apiary new styles of hives that come on the market. Discussion on the advisability of chasing fads and focusing our attention on keeping colonies alive over the winter.
- Gordon strongly advised that a specific mite count be determined for each hive in the Apiary and mite treatments be done when that number is reached, despite the type of the hive or who is managing it. All agreed that either the infected hive be treated or removed from the Apiary.
- Gordon and Dave Leger would like to construct a lean-to shelter along the long Stedman building on the east side of our Apiary to protect our unused woodenware from the elements. The cost would cover the materials, and permission was granted by the Stedman family.

**MOTION:** To approve the building of a sheltering lean-to structure alongside the existing Stedman warehouse with funds not to exceed \$750. The motion was moved, seconded, and unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

- A check representing the collection taken at the February membership meeting to support a fledgling beekeeper group at a school in Oaxaca, Mexico was mailed to Michael Palmer of French Hill Apiaries in Vermont as the GoFundMe site wouldn't accept the funds.
- Joe Gwynne wishes to purchase a Yamaha rolling protective bag for one of the speakers of the new sound system. Off-market brands are less expensive, but they don't have the functionality of wheels.

**MOTION:** To approve the purchase of the Yamaha speaker bag with funds not to exceed \$125. The motion was moved, seconded, and unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Discussion on the use of mapping software to pinpoint the location of member's hives. Security and privacy issues were discussed.
- Looking ahead to the 2020 Beginning Beekeeper Course and the 2019 Apprentice Beekeeper Course, some dates were explored for conflicts with local school schedules, holidays, and other events. The determined dates to explore availability with the Jackson Scout Hall are Sept. 14 & 21, 2019 and March 14 & 21, 2020. Janet will contact the Scout Hall for availability.
- Discussion of possible officer changes to the Board for 2020. Bob Finley indicated that he would like to step down as Treasurer, and Sophi is making inquiries of those interested members who might run for the position. Janet indicated that she would be willing to serve another year as Secretary, but she would be happy if someone else would take over the responsibilities of designing and editing the monthly newsletter.

Meeting adjourned at 7:46 PM. The next meeting of the Board will be May 20, 2019 at 6:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Janet Finley, WSBA Secretary