

BEEKEEPERS GUILD OF THE EASTERN SHORE - BGES

MINUTES FEBRUARY 10TH, 2024

Meeting was held at the Barrier Island Center in Machipongo

Meeting was called to order at 10:04 am by Vice President Chris Kutyla. There were 12 people in attendance in person and 6 people online (ZOOM).

List of officers

Tara Southard - President

Chris Kutyla - Vice President

Tia Bell - Secretary

Sandra Scher - Treasure

Art Vancil - Social Media

George Brown – Webmaster

*New – Mentorship Program Managers – Suzane Omrod and David Schmidt

Vice President Chris opened up the meeting with introducing our guest speaker Mr. Bob Bennie. Bob has a great youtube channel, you can find it here: [Bob Binnie - YouTube](#)

- Bob provided us with a detailed powerpoint and discussion regarding going into Spring. He discussed:
 - Checking for MITES is so important
 - Feeding to stimulate and what ration is good for when
 - Requeening?? Spring or Fall
 - Walkaway spilts
 - 10 days before the apple trees bloom, you need to start looking at hives for signs of swarming and must have Drones present to swarm
 - He recommended using the Green Drone Frames, out on the outter wall of the hive. They will lay drones in there and great for mite reduction.
 - When doing a spilt, leave the queen in the original hive. Better for honey production.
 - End of presentation. A few questions were asked.
- *Note, Bob said we could share the zoom recording as well as his powerpoint, so if anyone wants it, contact Chris K.

- Minutes from the Jan 2024 meeting were read by Tia Bell
- **TREASURES REPORT:** \$2130.75, dues collected today from a few members
- Personal thank you to Linda Tucker for the donation of the red crimson seeds
- The Bee Pollen give away was a huge success, its all gone

- Don't forget to register for the BeeCheck VA to put your colony info/location on there
- Toni Noreika donated a 3 frame manual extractor to the club. She asks that if anyone has honey they would like to "donate" in return she would be grateful. We need to send her a THANK YOU NOTE! Tia is working on that!
- Suzzane has the mentor program for action
- **2024 Officers – We are looking to find replacements for *PRESIDENT and VICE PRESIDENT*. Sandra and Tia desire to stay on as Treasure and Secretary, however if someone else is interested please let us know.**
- **We need a nominating committee. Ann Snyder will take the lead, with Niall, Denise & Tom Lynn assisting. IF ANYONE IS INTERESTED IN ANY POSITION PLEASE LET Tia Bell know AND SHE WILL GET YOUR INFO TO THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE.**
- Who has copy of the By-Laws?
- We have been asked to send someone to the "small farm workshop" on March 21st, Chris K. will go and give a presentation / show gear / talk bee's
- Does the club buy Zoom? Its \$140 a year for a subscription. Those in attendance voted YES, N/A's – Zero, Art will take care of making the right selection and purchase.
- THIS IS HUGE: The motion was made that we increase our annual dues from \$20 per family to \$30 per family starting in June 2024. We have never increased our dues. The reason for this is:
 - We want to increase the number of events we do, which costs money:
 - Pay dues at the State Conferences for those that want to attend
 - Give away things: ie: Pollen, seeds, etc.
 - Provide a needed item for a newbeekeeper, ie: gloves, smoker, hive tools, etc.
 - We make regular donations to places we use their facility ie: Tasley FH, BIC.
 - Snacks/drinks at the meetings
 - Pay for our guest speakers
 - Make purchases like a ZOOM Account
 - A motion was passed by Niall, all were in favor.
- Download the beecheck map on your phone to register the location of your hives or you can do it on your computer. [BeeCheck VA - BeeCheck Home](#)
- If anyone is interested in doing some research, we would like to find some GRANTS. Having grants would be a huge help, maybe we could secure a permanent home for the BGES club

meetings and club items/equipment. Maybe we increase our membership and start doing more activities with the high school students (conditions apply here)

Upcoming plans for 2024:

- Saturday March 9th @ 10am – Guest speaker to be Jane McKinley w/ Master Gardeners.
- April - Open Hive Day – Location TBD
- May - Nothing Yet
- June – Club picnic

The meeting was adjourned at 12:02pm

If you want to be a member of the VA State Beekeepers Association, please send a \$10 check to:

VSBA
201 Bluebird Lane
Charlotte Court House, VA 23923