

## **Minutes of New River Valley Beekeepers' Association**

April 14<sup>th</sup> 2016

36 members present.

Luke McCoy opened the meeting at 6:30 pm.

Minutes of March meeting were approved.

Treasurers report:. We have \$20,154.88 in the bank. Expenses include speaker fees, beeyard, and beginner class. It also includes money coming in for packages which will be used to pay the supplier. Report was accepted by the meeting.

Packages: all have been sold and are due for delivery on 24<sup>th</sup> April from 9am to 1pm. There is a possibility of purchasing more at a later date if people still need them.

Sue Hossack requested volunteers for the Shawsville Garden Day on Saturday May 7<sup>th</sup>. 9am - 1pm.

Location for summer picnic was discussed with Nellies Cave being chosen as in past years. Sue Hossack will contact Blacksburg Parks and Recreation to book it. A date of 16<sup>th</sup> July with a backup date of 23<sup>rd</sup> July will be requested.

Richard Reid gave a summary of the work being done on the beeyard: An electric fence has been installed by a team headed up by Jim Hill. It has five strands, with alternate strands being hot. It is powered by solar. There are 3 nucs which will be developed into hives. More nucs are needed, and will be purchased for \$85 if any members have ones to sell. This is less than market price and will be seen as a donation to the club. In two-three weeks time we will begin running fields days. It is located at 1149 Old Mill Rd, and is part of Moore Farm. The gate is locked. VT Engineering students use the area for 4-wheeling, there are no houses around. A question was asked regarding honey: the association will decide what is to be done with it. The plans are for one top-bar hive, two hives all mediums, and three hives with double deeps.

It will be used primarily for teaching. It will be populated with nucs rather than package bees in order to get local stock. Jim Hill has officially designated Richard Reid as coordinator of the bee yard, although the Association will continue to make any decisions required.

Field days will be announced through the listserv.

It was announced that there are 16 candidates for Dr Fells position at VT.

Richard Reid introduced the speaker, Dwight Porter, a South Carolina-based Russian queen and bee breeder of Porter Farm Honey Bees. He gave an interesting talk about his queen production operation and making splits and answered many questions.

After the presentation Luke McCoy led the discussion on what we should be doing with the bees this month. Jerry Borger reported he started grafting today. Most people are

seeing pollen coming in. Wooden ware should be ready for the packages coming in on April 24<sup>th</sup>. It is recommended to requeen the packages after they have been established.

Hives that were started last year need to be given room to expand otherwise they will swarm. Methods of expansion include adding supers, reversing two brood boxes, taking off honey frames if there is too much, and checker-boarding the brood frames.

Dark comb should be rotated out at a rate of 3 frames a year per box.

When making splits it is possible to do it by putting 5 frames (of brood, honey, pollen) in a 10-frame deep.

Jerry Borger : BBC had a field day scheduled to inspect hives but the weather was bad so make up times are being provided this weekend (Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 17<sup>th</sup>). He needs volunteers to help demonstrate how to inspect a hive.

Submitted by

Sue Hossack

NRVBA Secretary