

**New River Valley Beekeepers Association**  
**May 14, 2020, Meeting Minutes**

President Emory Altizer opened the meeting at 6:36 pm with a total of 37 members present. Carl Lefko hosted the meeting digitally via Zoom due to the State of Virginia COVID-19 restrictions.

Emory raised the topic of some of our excess funds and how we might use it to contribute positively to bees and the beekeeping community. So far, our goals have been centered around the importance of mite control. For example, we have thought of subsidizing mite resistant queens. We have almost nailed down the details of dispersing about \$1500 for the purchase of VHS queens. Without being able to take a proper vote, we have to assume this is agreed upon by all members and assume approval unless otherwise expressed by the participants today. There will be a maximum per family and we are looking at selling them for about \$15 apiece. We have also thought about subsidizing mite treatments and donating funds to research.

The June meeting was originally planned to have a presentation on varroa and IPM strategies, mites as well as the diseases. We have Morgan Roth joining us, who is a published researcher and a member of the NRVBA. Emory will publish this so that we can read it prior to the June meeting.

The treasury report for this month was emailed to the membership recently by James Hill. As was reported, we have \$10,182.38 available in the checking account and \$23.41 in the PayPal account. Please keep in mind that some of these funds are obligated for invoices from Dadant. The NRVBA has been brainstorming ideas for how we can help the bee population with our funds. A few ideas have been equipment purchases and queens, although we would like to hear input from the members about what the club can do to fund projects that are beneficial to the membership and beekeeping in general. James asked for questions; there were none.

Due to the virtual limitations, there was no raffle this week.

What should you be doing with your bees right now: We have had several hard freezes lately and we should be anticipating a nectar flow. Make sure you have plenty of boxes and frames to be prepared to add them on. If you are using plastic frames, it is recommended to put a coat of wax on to help the bees along. Ensure your bees have

plenty of food, especially if you have packages, and hopefully the flow will hit soon. If you have a screened bottom board, take a peek underneath and check your food stores. There really isn't much for them to eat right now so don't put off inspections. Yet still, keep checking for swarms!

We are grateful to have our very own James Hill present: "Queen Rearing: Slightly Simplified". His hope for takeaway is to show us that you shouldn't let perfection be the enemy of good. The goal is to have the maximum production of queens but things can be simplified and made more accessible. Jim uses the Doolittle (grafting) Method but this is certainly not the only or right way for everyone. This method exploits emergency queen rearing.

Respectfully submitted,  
Morgan Otten, Secretary