

Racine/Kenosha Beekeepers' Association

April 4, 2012 Meeting Minutes



Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Scott Drabicki at 7:05pm. He announced that Peter Staniec has regrettably resigned from the position of Secretary and nominations are being accepted. Gail Seefeldt was nominated and voted in as Secretary by the membership. He asked everyone to introduce themselves and tell the location of their hives. He also welcomed new members and asked if any of the new members needed a mentor.

Announcements

- Pete Poli had a successful presentation on Intro to Beekeeping at the Spring into Gardening workshop in Lake Paddock. He received \$75 for presenting.
- It was identified that we have a Federal Tax ID number.
- There is an Art/Rummage Sale in Kenosha on 4/14/12 from 8-3pm.
- Looking for volunteers to sell honey at the Northbrook, IL Farmers Market and Lambs Farm in IL (contact Pete)
- Gale Dulan announced that she is selling her Dad's beekeeping supplies as they are downsizing his hives.
- Scott Drabicki will be attending an Earth Day Event at Racine Gateway Tech on 4/21/12 from 10-2pm. Other members are welcome to join. Per Tim Fulton the Kenosha Tech campus is also looking for volunteers.

The March 2012 minutes were read and approved.

There was no Treasurer's report.

Old Business

- None

New Business

- Technology – Improvements will be occurring on the website.
- Extractors- Discussed that the association had 3 but only one was found. Pete Poli has it and said it is available for someone to use.

- There was a brief discussion about how everyone's colonies are doing from the winter. Discussion occurred about rotating the hive bodies to force the brood nest back into the lower box after winter. Not all beekeepers perform this operation and there was a brief discussion. There may still be a risk of frost which may affect the bees.
- Discussion about feeding in the winter and only feed sugar/water if necessary

Presentation

- Craig Petros, Apiary Inspector for the state of WI that will inspect your hive free of charge. He is counting Varroa mites for the state and will give you recommendations based on his 38 years of beekeeping experience. He discussed recent bee illnesses and addressed questions from the group.

A video was shown about how to have a package.

Discussed feeding options such as using 1 g. jar, Ziploc bags, 18 oz PB jar; recommended a good vendor is Bushy Mountain for a 1 g. with screen

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm. Members were encouraged to view the Varroa mite (Pete Poli brought a microscope to view it) and discuss mentors if needed.

Submitted by: Gail Seefeldt