

Tri-County Beekeepers Meeting Tuesday, October 1, 2019

Board members Bob Cross and Deb Cross were present.
Bob called the meeting to order at 7:06.

3 new members were present, 1 from Buffalo, 1 from Sherburne County and another from St. Cloud

Nominations for elections open tonight.

- Volunteer for President – Rick Koetter
- Volunteer for Vice President – Amy Jonas
- Executive Board – Wayne Rusch

There were no other nominations.

Budgets are due by November meeting.

Mary Kivi reported on the picnic she hosted at her home. Costs were \$96.48. There were some left-overs which can be served at another event.

The December meeting will be pot-luck (bring something made with honey). Mary will bring pork for sandwiches and other dishes can complement it. It was voted to start at 6:30 for a social time prior

Secretary's September 3rd minutes were read and approved. Financial report from September was amended. Treasurer was absent, so no October financial report was given.

Joe brought in honey from picnic extraction to be sold.

Extraction report from members:

- from medium to high.
- 410 lbs from 7 hives.
- 10 hives 650 lbs.

Craig Shephard spoke about weighing your hives. He recommends over-wintering with 150 lbs for a 3 super hive. Watch for moisture. Wrap strap around it. You can balance it on your bathroom scale. Or use a gang scale (approx. \$50). By lifting up slightly at sides the weight recorded would be about half. Do periodically as you feed syrup. Another member uses a luggage scale.

Discussion:

- How much and how late to feed. (10 lbs of syrup for every gallon of sugar water.)
- What to do with the pollen that is collected and seemingly never used.
- Recent swarming! If bees leave seal up the hive for next year.
- Overall is mite count down? Yes

Bob showed a presentation on decapping tools with input from members. A video showed a method of melting the caps with a heat gun. Craig has used this method and stated some of the wax does solidify quickly but can be easily scraped off.

Topic for another meeting? Solar melters. Craig Shephard will bring one in for a spring meeting.

Continued discussion on the trailer insurance. The persons who pull the trailer are the ones that need the insurance. If is it unhitched and damaged it would be covered by homeowners. If we choose to not insure it we must realize the loss. Trailer cost \$1200 and contents are approx. \$800.

Vote passed to not insure trailer and content. Motion approved that whoever stores our trailer shall assume no financial responsibility.

Receipts presented for fair tablecloths and picnic food will be held until next month as treasurer was absent.

Volunteers needed for each committee listed and someone to coordinate the bee orders in spring.

- Education
- Swarm
- Picnic
- Library
- Purchasing

Motion to adjourn at 8:42 p.m.