

Grant County Beekeepers

Meeting Notes 9 January 2019

In attendance: 16 beekeepers and "friends of bees."

Meeting start time: 6:05 P.M.

General discussion and announcements:

Ken Sexton opened our first meeting of 2019 by introducing the new proposed club officers, who are as follows:

- Ken Sexton President
- Jerry Medina Vice-President
- Karen Prevost Treasurer
- Tom Maxfeldt Secretary

Francis Higgins motioned to accept the new leadership group as presented, and the motion was seconded by Susan Clair. The motion was carried by a verbal vote.

It was announced that Grant County Beekeepers is now under the umbrella of the New Mexico Beekeepers Association as a sub-group. As such, we have status as a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization. With this status, we can seek grants and donations for our club. Also, as a sub-group of NMBKA, we are covered by their insurance for club events that we participate in. It was stressed that this insurance does not cover individual member's outside of these events. It is not personal liability insurance.

We were encouraged to join the NMBKA, and can do so by visiting their website. The cost is \$30 per year, and with that, if you attend the twice yearly NMBKA conference, the \$30 admittance fee is waived. The 2019 Beekeepers Annual Winter Conference will be held on February 1st & 2nd. Please visit their website for complete details. Our president, Ken Sexton will be a presenter at the conference, giving updates on our group's progress, and in particular, the status of the proposed Silver City ordinance to control beekeeping within town limits. In addition to waived conference fees, members enjoy free access to all yearly events, workshops, and all website content.

<http://nmbeekeepers.org/>

Fully half of the meeting was spent discussing Lynda Aiman-Smith's (Silver City councilor district 2) NOI (notice of intent) proposal to control and/or limit beekeeping within the town limits of Silver City. Ken stated that he had met with Lynda on two occasions to discuss the details of the NOI. Many of the provisions can not be supported by our group, and discussions continue in an attempt to craft an ordinance that is fair, and will not discourage beekeeping in town. Susan Clair and Ken have also met several times with Mayor Ken Ladner to discuss the NOI. The latest version of the NOI is not yet available for review, but will be before the February town council meeting where it will be on the agenda for discussion.

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Following, the main points of discussion are listed in bullet form, and are based on the previous version of the NOI:

- Any provision in the ordinance that would result in increased liability to beekeepers will not be supported.
- Fees for beekeeper registration will not be supported.
- The proposed ordinance seems punitive, whereas ordinances researched in other parts of the state/country actually provide valuable services to the beekeeper. Many states provide a free annual inspection of hives to assess the health and wellbeing of the managed honey bee colonies.
- It is not understood what resources Silver City has to enforce any new regulations.
- As written, beekeepers in Silver City would be guilty of a crime if they didn't keep adequate records of their beekeeping activities.
- The ordinance would require that colonies be re-queened at least once every two years. Many queens can remain productive for up to four or five years, and this requirement is unnecessary, and costly to the beekeeper. A new queen costs \$30-\$40, and are not normally available locally. Queens typically are shipped overnight from out of state which adds another ~\$30 to the cost.
- Discouraging in-town beekeeping will result in more unmanaged (feral) honey bee colonies.

After the revised NOI is made available, our group will determine whether or not it will be supported by Grant County Beekeepers. In the meantime, it was suggested that we email the mayor, and town council members with our opinions on the NOI. Contact information:

Ken Ladner	Mayor of Silver City	kenladner@hotmail.com
Cynthia Ann Bettison	Councilor district 1	councilordistrict1@silvercitynm.gov
Lynda D. Aiman-Smith	Councilor district 2	councilordistrict2@silvercitynm.gov
Jose A. Ray, Jr.	Councilor district 3	jose_r88061@yahoo.com
Guadalupe "Lupe" Cano	Councilor district 4	councilordistrict4@silvercitynm.gov

Ken presented a list of potential topics of discussion for future club meetings. We were asked to review the list, and propose additions. All topics on the list would provide very useful information to beekeepers. It was suggested that members might select a topic that he/she would be willing to present to the club.

New member, Gerhard Eipert, reported that he has a feral colony on his property that is very defensive, and asked if any of us knew a way to capture the bees without harming them. A bee trap was suggested, but trapping bees can take a long time, and the queen

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will not move into the trap. Local beekeeper, Eric Leahy will be contacted by Susan Clair to see if he would be willing to take a look at Gerhard's feral colony. He has extensive experience with overly defensive bee colonies.

The "hat" was passed to collect donations to pay the \$40/month fee charged by the Commons for the use of their meeting area. Karen Prevost will open a bank account for all extra funds collected. The money will be used to pay for the cost of our website, and website domain, and for other expenses incurred by our group. The monies collected were as follows:

\$0 left over from the last collection (at our September meeting)
+ \$52 collected at this January meeting
\$52 total
- \$40 deposited into The Commons donation box, in a marked envelope from our group
\$12 remaining, to be applied toward establishing a bank account in the near future.

Next meeting- February 13th, at 6:00 P.M.

Beekeeper Meeting Location: The Commons (was The Volunteer Center)- 501 E. 13th St.

The agenda for this meeting will be emailed when available.

We invite everyone to visit our website. Become a member - it's free!

www.grantcountynmbeekeepers.org

Meeting adjourned: 7:30 P.M.

Respectively submitted,

Tom & Barbara

Tom & Barbara Maxfeldt

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