MINUTES:

SNOQUALMIE VALLEY BEEKEKPERS

BOARD MEETING June 3, 2014

ATTENDANCE: Board Members in attendance were Bob Combs, Roger Ledbetter, Charles Schaffer, Kate Flack, Mark Bowen, Mike Skripek, Ed Blechen, and Robert Clark.

At 9:14 p.m., the meeting was called to order.

1. Issue: Budget Review

Discussion: The current budget balance shows the club being in the black $4222. However, there are some additional revenues coming to the club as both Charles and Mike will be donating $5 for each package of bees bought by club members: approximately $200. There are also some outstanding payments for about that amount.

Summary: The SVB Club is on solid financial footing with approximately $4200 in the bank.

2. Issue: Upcoming fairs at Railroad Days and the Festival at Mt. Si.

Discussion: Kate asked that Board members should try to work the booth for these festivals a minimum of 3 hours as we are leaders in the club, and she thinks the board members tend to me more knowledgeable about bee keeping than the newest members. Members are asked to donate products to the club that they have made from their bees. Honey, cosmetics, candles, are all welcome. These 2 festivals are our biggest fund raisers for the year. Anyone who donates products, can give the club a business card and we will pass it out at the fairs. However the rules governing non-profits requires that we be careful not to be promoting a for profit business. But providing a list of members and were they sell their products would be allowed.

Action Taken: Please contact Kate or any Board Member with products you can afford to donate.

3. Issue: Education

Discussion: Thank you, thank you, thank you to Robert Clark, and Nathan Rousch for their efforts in providing beekeeping education. The Board thinks the presentation have been excellent, and have provided a nice balance between beginning and more advanced beekeeping subjects.

4. Issue: Apiary

Discussion: Charles reported that only a couple of people came to help/observe the hive inspections. His plan for this month was to have a beginner inspect a nuc, and locate the queen. He was then doing to demonstrate marking the queen. This hands on education would be of great value to new beekeepers. An effort will be made to have new members actually doing the inspections. An announcement in the newsletter about what the plan is, in the coming month, for the apiary, would encourage new member to attend.

Action taken: The person leading the hands on education at the apiary, prior to the monthly meeting, will let Mark know what the plan is for that day.

5. Issue: Membership

Discussion: Our current membership stands at 42. Most members have paid up, but it is not quite clear if all have paid. The records show about $400 in membership dues, and it should be about $800. Perhaps providing a convenient place, to pay, at the SVBK’s web site would be helpful. A Paypal account could be set up so that member could renew on line, and it appears that Paypal may not even charge for a non-profit organization. The club lost about a third of its membership the last year. It is import to maintain membership, and finding out why people did not review might help us to improve the club and increase retention at the same time.

Action taken: Members should review whether or not they have paid their yearly dues. If not, please forward a check to Anne Mahoney. Setting up a Paypal account will be placed on the agenda for the September Board meeting. A call will be placed to those who did not renew to find out the reasons.

6. Issue: Mentorship Guidelines

Discussion: These were written but never finalized. A draft was sent to Ken Reid for review and suggestions.

Action taken: The Mentorship guidelines will be on the agenda for finalization at the next Board Meeting in September.

7. Issue: Members only benefits

Discussion: Kate expressed the view that their should be member only benefits of joining the club. Membership dues is a significant part of our budget, and paying members should get something for joining. Currently participation in our woodenware order, use of the extractor, group orders (like honey jars), mentorship program, and apiary program are exclusive for members only. A list of membership only benefits should be listed on the web site.

Action taken: Bob will do a membership benefits tab on the web page.

8. Issue: Elections

Discussion: Board members and officers are coming up for elections. Half of the board positions will be opening up. And several of the officers will be leaving, including Kate. Please begin the process of thinking about who you would like to see lead the club next year. Also please consider serving yourself. You do not have to be an expert beekeeper to serve on the board, only a willingness to show up for meetings ,and to help out is needed.

Action Taken: If you have a suggest of someone who you would like to see on the board,, or to serve as an officer of the board, please forward their names to Kate or another board member.

9: Issue: Honey harvesting equipment

Discussion: Roger pointed out that using the uncapping knife was difficult, and asked if buying a heated uncapping plane would be a good idea. Charles said that he finds a uncapping plane easier to use. Bob indicated that the Maxant uncapping plane is the one to get. Bob made a motion to purchase a heated uncapping plane, and it was seconded by Mike. The motion passed. Roger was asked to look for a good price and purchase the plane.

Action Taken: Roger will purchase a Maxant uncapping plane and forward the receipt to Anne Mahoney.

10:20 p.m. Bob made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Roger seconded and the motion passed.

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