



VSBA Leadership Meeting Minutes

May 14, 2020

Attendees: Martha Kiene (President), Bruce Hamon (1st V-President), Ronnie Bolton (Secretary), Ian Henry (Treasurer), Kristine Smith, Rebecca Swanson, John Davis, Keith Tignor, Tommy Nelson, Mike Kostelac, Rick and Pamela Fisher

Meeting was opened utilizing the Zoom platform at 7:10 pm.

Newsletter – After discussion of who should be proofing, Mr Davis requested a voting committee member make a motion to document the proofing review process. Mr. Bolton made motion to send draft newsletter to Board, Leadership Committee members, RR's, Mr Tignor, and the Communication Committee for proofing. Communication Committee – Ms Smith, Ms Eisen, Mr Muller. Seconded and passed

Next newsletter deadline – June 25

Fall Meeting – Will Blue Ridge Community College be open due to COVID-19? James Madison 2020 Homecoming is Nov 6-8 which severely restricts housing availability for that weekend. We would need to schedule for another weekend. Mr Tignor reported that Virginia Community Colleges are planning to hold online classes this Fall so it is not clear if BRCC will be available.

Mr Tignor proposed we consider a late summer online meeting. Local clubs have reported having successful online meetings. Ms Smith to investigate WebEx technology for a possible late summer online meeting. All were requested to send suggestions for speakers.

Ann Harmon's sister sent us thanks for the tribute that we posted to our website after Ms Harmon's passing.

Spring Meeting – Nansemond club notified us that they are willing to host 2021 Spring Meeting in Smithfield. Discussion centered around trying to line up same speakers that were scheduled for the 2020 meeting.

Treasurer's report – Mr Henry reported as of end of April, Receipts: \$1615 membership fees, Expense \$4 to Wild Apricot. Balance: \$53875.24

Because of the number of contacts asking for information about the Asian Giant Hornet that was found in Vancouver and Washington State, Ms Fisher asked Ms Smith to post the VA Tech Extension information on the VSBA home page. Ms Smith completed the task while we were still discussing the hornet.

Hive Grant Program – Ms Kiene shared that Mr Tignor reported that the comment period was now open.

Master Beekeepers – Mr Davis reported they have 6 or 7 people expressing interest in the program. They have been contacted and referred to the website since meetings are not being held at this time.

Ms Keine shared that Ms Eisen reported that EAS 2020 has been cancelled due to the pandemic. EAS 2021 will be in August at Amherst University, Amherst, MA. Ms Eisen believes her honey grant will be extended to help support speaker costs.

Ms Smith reported that the Scholarship Committee is still working on a revision from all the comments received. It was clarified that Mr Fisher is a committee member and had not been receiving pdated information nor notified when the committee met. Ms Smith to send information.

There was discussion around possibilities of holding an official meeting for members to vote on the Master Beekeeper and Scholarship proposals as well as elections. If elections are to be planned, Mr Bolton suggested that a nominating committee be assembled.

Mr Tignor reported that he had received a USDA funding announcement for Non-Profits developing programs for Vets.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronnie Bolton
Secretary