

## MINUTES

## PINEYWOODS BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION MEETING

01-14-2021 Meeting held via Zoom

Due to the closures and restrictions from the Covid 19 virus, this meeting was held via Zoom.

I. President Karen Mitchell called meeting to order 6:35 pm. Between 15 & 20 people participated in the Zoom meeting, including some prospective new members. The Program was on agenda first as video was set up with presenter. Terry McFall introduced his son Ted McFall, who resides in Custer, WA. Presentation was on his experience with the Asian Giant Hornet.

Program: Ted McFall presented a very thorough and interesting program on the Asian Giant Hornet. One of his hives was destroyed by these hornets. Mr. McFall had some fabulous photographs of the hornets, nest and eradication. Some highlights from his presentation:

- Asian Giant Hornets are truly dangerous. As few as 20 hornets can annihilate a bee hive in a matter of hours. The Western honey bee has no defense for these hornets. Eastern honey bee species have developed various ways to defend their hives.
- Asian hornets attack hives, behead the honey bees and consume the thorax portion, bringing it back to their nest to feed their young.
- Hornets are extremely large, 1.5"-2" long, with ¼" stinger. Can spray venom as well as sting.
- Normal protective beesuits are not adequate for protection against these hornets.
- Washington State Univ. has been tracking the hornets via a GPS attached to hornets. A nest was found in northern Washington in a tree, and eradicated.
- Life cycle and nesting behaviors are being studied by various entities in an effort to stop and destroy these invaders.
- State of Washington and Canada are on high alert to report the sighting of these hornets, so they can be controlled and eradicated. Unknown how they entered the U.S.

Held a question/answer session after program for members and guests.

II. PBA Business Meeting: Karen Mitchell called meeting to order.

Announcements: Longtime member Cecil Hunt passed away, as did member Lloyd Duplant.

Membership Dues: 2021 dues will be waived due to Covid and no meetings.

Nominations for Officers: Will be taken at next physical meeting, with voting to take place the month following.

Board member Terry McFall has graciously volunteered to fill in as Program Coordinator until it can be filled.

Treasurer's Report: Terry McFall, PBA Treasurer, reported bank balance as of 12/31/20: \$8684.59.

Apiary Report: None

PBA Bee School: Robert Jones and Rachel Payne are working on plans, curriculum, advertising. Will have to await the lifting of Covid restrictions to hold classes.

PBA Financial Audit: Will be set up when we are able to meet again. Requires Treasurer, 2 officers and 1 outside person or member to participate.

Members will be kept informed of news via email, Beeline and Facebook page. The Website has been discontinued but is still up at this time.

All business having been completed, meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanie Kochanek, PBA Secretary