

Potomac Highlands Beekeepers Association (PHBA)
www.potomachighlandsbeekeepers.weebly.com
PHBA Meeting Summaries 2017

President Larry Lemons llemons@frontier.com 642 Bethel Rd. Paw Paw, WV 21434 304 947-5217	Vice President Bonnie Myers khs7377@aol.com PO Box 102 Augusta, WV 26704 302-233-2573	Secretary/Treasurer Kirby Vining secretary.phba@gmail.com 16 Franklin St., NE Washington, DC 20002 202 213-2690
--	---	--

Potomac Highlands Beekeepers Association Meeting

October 19, 2017, 7-9pm, Bank of Romney Community Center, Romney

1. **Opening and Welcome:** President Roy opened the meeting (VP Larry traveling) about 7:10 and asked if any persons were visiting the club for the first time. There were none but regular members present.
2. **Guest speaker:** none.

Elections: The nominating committee reported no nominee for president or vice president, but nominated Kirby to continue as Secretary/Treasurer. Nominations from the floor: Bonnie Myers for VP. VP Larry was contacted by phone and asked if he'd accept nomination as president, and he accepted. **Nominations were closed and as there was only one nomination for each position, a motion was made to accept the nominees by acclaim, seconded, passed unanimously.**

An order for five pizzas and five bottles of soda was placed immediately with Italian Touch who delivered later in the meeting.

3. **Secretary report :** Receive comments/corrections for the September 2017 minutes. None received, **motion to accept the September minutes, seconded, passed unanimously.**

All club minutes are posted on Website - www.potomachighlandsbeekeepers.weebly.com

4. **Treasurer Report-** Kirby Vining. Current Bank of Romney balance, September 29, 2017, is \$1,801.11. That includes a deposit for \$15 for raffle tickets purchased but only received after the August picnic and raffle drawing -- three sets of three tickets were purchased at a store but the store had not told the club they'd been sold. All three purchasers were offered a refund but all three opted to let the club keep the money. Another deposit To the club account was for \$275, a refund from the IRS for the second of our three applications for 501(c)3 status (the third check for the successful application was clearly kept, not returned). Kirby mentioned that the IRS had called us a "Private Foundation" for tax purposes, contrary to our stated wish to be a "Public Charity" (which involves much, much easier annual tax filings and is closer to the description of what our club is and does). The club has 501(c)3 status, but the exact designation

as a "Public Charity" is still being processed. **A request was made to approve the Treasurer's report, motion made and seconded, passed unanimously.**

5. **Old business** : Club picnic/Raffle drawing: All present much enjoyed the club picnic, and agreed that this is a very good location for us, and the timing in August is good, but suggested using a pavilion at Brighton Park closer to the rest rooms. Saturday, August 18th was decided would be a good date for the picnic, August 25th was rejected because school would already be in session. Michelle volunteered to see if the club could reserve one of the pavilions nearer the rest rooms for August 18th and will let us know.

Directly related, it was suggested that the club start selling raffle tickets much earlier to increase the audience for the sales and of course increase the sales. When Michelle confirms the park pavilion, Kirby will circulate a draft raffle ticket for Confirmation and hope to have the tickets printed by the next meeting on February 15th. The Tri-County Fair was the first week in August and though dates for the fair in 2018 are not yet known, it is believed that the fair and the club picnic will not conflict.

Concerning the raffle and the tickets, it was suggested that a hive and established colony of bees, or \$100, be the 1st prize, but it was suggested that two nucs or \$50 be offered as second prize, delivery of both the hive of bees and the nucs to take place in the spring of 2019 for the sake of the livability of the bees (thinking that establishing a new hive/nuc in August is dicey at best in our experience). Third prize was suggested to be one gallon of local honey, and fourth prize five candles made from beeswax. Lewis Smith and Roy discussed which of them would provide the hive/bees, Brian the nucs, Brian the gallon of honey, and Lewis Brison the candles. It was agreed that we will order 1,000 raffle tickets, early enough in the year that they can be re-ordered if we need more. **Motion to accept these proposed prizes and ticket information, seconded, passed unanimously.**

Kirby attended the WVBA Fall Conference in Fairmont and discussed his favorite part of the two-day program: WV Apiarist Wade Stiltner's hour-long talk on his own fall management practice. Walt said that he treats his hives with oxalic acid once a year, in December sometime after hunting season, on a day when the temperature is about 43 degrees. He has done this several ways, he said, and the reason he does this is: he doesn't want any brood in the hive when he treats because that's where mites grow and OA doesn't reach inside a sealed cell, thus in December when there is no brood. He treats when it's about 43 degrees because all the bees are in the hive, and they're moving about, thus exposed to the OA vapor. Colder than that, they're in a ball so tight the vapor doesn't get to all of them; warmer than that and some are likely not in the hive. He wants to get them all, with no brood, and check the results for about 28 days following treatment. Walt also said that because he's found really nasty bees sometimes emerge from otherwise docile hives, with no warning that the hive has started to produce vicious bees, he recommends NEVER opening a hive without at least a hood or goggles, the latter because he's seen vicious bees blind a dog without warning -- bees are apparently attracted to the carbon dioxide people and animals breathe out.

Fred Litton brought in a two-pound jar of his own honey, Lewis Brison bought it from Fred and donated the cost to the club -- \$10 deposited to the club bank account with our thanks to both Fred and Lewis!

Mention was made of something Randy Oliver does to treat mites with shop towels, but I missed the details.

Two club members said that Honey B Healthy should not be mixed with sugar Water in the fall because it causes the bees to have diarrhea.

Pizza arrived, paid for with club check #137 for \$86.65. Roy donated \$10 for a tip for the delivery person. Thank you, Roy!

6. New business :

Monday October 23rd 7-9pm Geezer Ridge Apiaries will be holding classes at the James Rumsay Training Center in Hedgesville, WV. Speakers include Dr. Cook and Dr. Corona, both from the Beltsville U.S.D.A. Research Lab, talking about 'super queens.' Bonnie will post information about this on the club Facebook page.

Michelle contacted Isaac Lewis at Hampshire High School (where he is in the Agriculture Department) about getting his school involved in beekeeping. Apparently the school has equipment but it's not being used. Michelle invited Isaac to tonight's meeting but he was busy, so he'll be invited to the February 15th meeting.

What to do with club funds? Ideas included an extractor, t-shirts, a projector, educational materials, but on a cautionary note: we have no place to keep such things. A couple club members suggested we needn't be in a rush to spend our club money and should consider using it for any upcoming appropriate educational opportunity, for example, reimbursing club members who travel to events relevant to beekeeping, such as the Geezer Ridge classes, on the condition that the person come back and tell us about the information received. There was broad general acceptance of this idea, and it was brought up that the club has done this before under an open policy of reimbursing members who bring information back to us -- one example from memory was two club members who were reimbursed for telling us about their visit to Billy Davis' sustainable beekeeping project in Purcellville, VA. It was agreed that the way we should implement this is to encourage club members to attend such events, and then let the club decide (vote) on reimbursement for travel expenses, lodging (if applicable), etc. after the fact, not before the event. All agreed that sharing upcoming opportunities of this nature on the club Facebook page would help all of us. All other proposed use of funds will be deferred for future discussion.

7. Meeting was adjourned at about 8:25pm for some delicious pizza and a cake provided by Lewis and Nancy.

8. Next meeting: Third Thursday in February, 2018, which is February 15th .

9. Refreshments for the next meeting : TBD

Potomac Highlands Beekeepers Association (PHBA)

www.potomachighlandsbeekeepers.weebly.com

PHBA Meeting Summaries 2017

President Roy Funkhouser jrfunkhouser@hardynet.com 1331 Funkhouser Road Baker, WV 26801 304 851-6897	Vice President Larry Lemons llemons@frontier.com 642 Bethel Rd. Paw Paw, WV 21434 304 947-5217	Secretary/Treasurer Kirby Vining secretary.phba@gmail.com 16 Franklin St NE Washington, DC 20002 202-213-2690
---	---	--

Meeting Summary

Potomac Highlands Beekeepers Association Meeting

September 21, 2017, 7-9pm, Bank of Romney Community Center, Romney

- 1. Opening and Welcome:** Vice President Larry opened the meeting as Roy was out of town on business about 7:10 and asked if any persons were visiting the club for the first time. Two Persons realized they were there for an unrelated meeting. We offered to let them join us But they left to try to find their meeting.
- 2. Guest speaker:** none.
- 3. Secretary report:** Receive comments/corrections for the July 2017 minutes. None received, **Motion to accept the July minutes, seconded, passed unanimously.** All club minutes are posted on Website - www.potomachighlandsbeekeepers.weebly.com
- 4. Treasurer Report -** Kirby Vining. Current Bank of Romney balance, August 31, 2017, is \$1,848.38. That Includes a deposit for \$20 for membership for William S. and renewal for Jeff H., \$12 check sent to WVBA to cover the WVBA those two memberships; deposit of \$797 of receipts from the raffle ticket sales (approximately 450 tickets sold, mostly at 2 for \$5). The club's 501(c)3 status was approved, but The IRS called us a 'private foundation' when in fact we wanted to be a 'public charity,' so Kirby Has filed the paperwork to make that change to our status. But we are a 501(c)3 tax-exempt Non-profit right now and will remain so. The club received a check for \$275 from the IRS Reimbursing the club for one of the three times we applied for non-profit status, deposited. One of the stores that kindly sold raffle tickets sold six tickets (\$15) but did not indicate that Any tickets had been sold until after the raffle drawing. Michelle worked with Roy to call Those three persons, apologize, explain the situation, and advise that the club would Gladly reimburse their kind donation. All three declined and stated that they just wanted The club to keep the money. Very kind of them, and very understanding. Richard B., D. Bennett, and J. Yoder were the three, all in Virginia as I recall.
Motion to accept the treasurer's report, seconded, passed unanimously.
- 5. Old business: Club picnic/Raffle drawing:** All present much enjoyed the club picnic, and while All agreed that this is a very good location for us, and the timing in August is good, Perhaps we should use one of the pavilions at the park that is closer to the rest rooms. Also, perhaps to both reserve that space and sell more raffle tickets, reserve the Space at the park earlier in the year so that we can print on the raffle ticket the

Date/time/place of the drawing at the picnic. The club had 1,000 raffle tickets Printed for this event, and those present agreed that this was likely A good number, and suggested that if we start sales early in the year we likely Could sell more, and re-order tickets if necessary, if we exceeded 1,000 sales.

Tri-County Fair 29 July - 5 August: Those present who attended the fair Enjoyed it and preferred our location outside, under the stadium, to the Indoor room we shared last year with WVDA and **suggested we consider The same space for next year.** Mention was made that Roy made the Reservation (and provided the bee observation hive) and used his Farm's presence beside the club booth to cover insurance required to Participate in the fair. Those are critical necessities to our participation, And our presence was in that sense very largely dependent on Roy's Kind help. Discussion about other locations where we could have a club Presence -- Hampshire County Fair, for instance -- but these considerations Are important. All were asked to find information about other events and Fairs that might be good for a club presence, and particularly to note what Fees and insurance coverage, if any, are necessary. A pavilion at Brighton Rents for \$30. Other items we could consider for sale at the fair are Lip balm, soap, lotion or other cosmetics that some club members make, And perhaps some things that beekeepers might purchase though no Specific suggestions on that were mentioned. It was suggested that we Might consider a 'bee beard,' a box of drones for children to play with, etc., To increase visitors' interest in the club presentation at the fair, and perhaps Club members have pollen for sale to interested customers.

Kirby attended the WVBA Fall Conference the day after the club meeting and Will report at the October meeting.

6. New business:

Tentative plans for the WVBA Spring Conference -- no details yet -- to be at Ed Forney's Geezer Ridge Farm. WVBA officers noted that with such distances separating the various Regions of WV, not many people travel for example across the Alleghenies for an event, So working on a variety of locations and this one would be relatively close by our location And easier to get to than some of the events in central or northern WV.

The WVBA is asking member clubs for ideas on what to do with accumulated WVBA Money from dues, something to benefit the clubs and/or WV beekeeping. Some club Members have heard that the WVBA is considering doing a CD ROM with a basic Beekeeping class for distribution, free, to all existing and new WVBA members. Many Present thought that was a good idea.

On the subject of what our club could do with club funds to benefit members, some Suggested purchasing an extractor, perhaps \$600-700, for club member use, others Suggested T-shirts, both to advertise the club and raise money. A couple club members Will look into the cost of T-shirts and report. Also mentioned was purchasing an Observation hive for the club to use and display at various events, an essay contest On the topic of beekeeping, seeds for school gardens, etc. We will bring this back

Up at the next meeting for broader discussion, not wanting to commit to any of these
Tonight with such a small number present.

Michelle, Brian, and Lewis have been appointed the **nominating committee for our Fall election**. They will pick a roster of candidates for the October election, all in accordance With the club bylaws. Our bylaws state that our elections are held in October, at the last Club meeting of the year, unless members decide to meet in November or later. Consensus Tonight was that October will be our last meeting, though we'll bring this up as a first order Of business in the October meeting. We will hear from the nominating committee, and Nominations from the floor are of course open.

Also discussed and approved, **it has been our tradition to purchase pizza from Italian Touch To serve at the conclusion of our October or last meeting of the year**, and the consensus Tonight supported that.

Fall hive management: All those present are already feeding their bees in preparation For the first frost. One member indicated that mites are said to attack the bees' liver, which Is not like our liver but is all around the abdomen area. There has been a sale at Walmart Offering 25lb bags of sugar for \$8.78, sale prices at certain other locations too. It was mentioned that the Facebook pages for Geezer Ridge Farms and Eversweet Apiaries frequently have mention of upcoming speakers or events for those two Rather near clubs, and a suggestion that they be linked to our club's Facebook page.

7. **Meeting was adjourned at about 8:45pm** for some delicious foods and a cake provided By Lewis and Nancy S.
8. **Next meeting: Third Thursday in October, 2017, which is October 19th.**
9. **Refreshments for the next meeting:** Pizza provided by the club.

Potomac Highlands Beekeepers Association (PHBA)

www.potomachighlandsbeekeepers.weebly.com

PHBA Meeting Summaries 2017

President Roy Funkhouser jrfunkhouser@hardynet.com 1331 Funkhouser Road Baker, WV 26801 304 851-6897	Vice President Larry Lemons llemons@frontier.com 642 Bethel Rd. Paw Paw, WV 21434 304 947-5217	Secretary/Treasurer Kirby Vining secretary.phba@gmail.com 16 Franklin St NE Washington, DC 20002 202-213-2690
---	---	--

Meeting Summary

Potomac Highlands Beekeepers Association Meeting

July 20, 2017, 7-9pm, Bank of Romney Community Center, Romney

- 1. Opening and Welcome:** Secretary/Treasurer Kirby opened the meeting as President Roy was on the way but not there yet, about 7:10 and asked if any persons were visiting the club for the first time but all in attendance have joined us before. William Sherman of Romney joined us with his spouse and joined the club the same night, Came to see the mead demonstration, as did two other first-time visitors.
- 2. Guest speaker:** VP Larry presented on making mead from his own experience.

Larry started by showing us the equipment he uses: two five-gallon jugs, one one-gallon Jug, airlocks (to keep oxygen from getting into the must during fermentation), a hygrometer To measure specific gravity (sugar content), thermometer, hoses. This equipment is available From beer supply stores such as Cumberland Trail Connection and many others for about \$150 a set. Camden tablets are used to sterilize equipment, but not necessary if mead Is made from honey only (no fruit or other ingredients). Larry cautioned that water is Very important, and hard water doesn't work well, and cautioned against using Chlorinated water, suggested using Roaring Springs water because the quality and Taste of the water is so important. He likes mead made from orange blossom and Tupelo honey, but any honey will do, the mead directly affecting the flavor quite strongly.

Larry noted that mead can be made from straight honey and water, or add fruit or fruit Juice to the mix, or even make it from maple syrup. Exact amounts are important. He noted that sugar content varies with the temperature, so close watch of the Temperature is important. Bubbling means fermentation is taking place, but when the Bubbling stops does not necessarily mean that the process is complete.

First mix the water and honey in proportions that vary widely so best check Larry's Handout or online instructions, but about 8-20 lbs. Of honey to 4 gallons of water is A pretty standard mix. Don't leave much air space in the 5-gallon jug because oxygen Is not good for the fermentation. 72 degrees is a good working temperature for the Ingredients. You can harvest and re-use the yeast that is used in the process. Wait for the mix to clarify and the yeast to settle, then move to the second jug and repeat. After the second fermentation, bottle and wait a year or so.

Yeast helps the fermentation process, though with straight honey you can do without, but You'll get yeast in the atmosphere that may not be a flavor you want. To make mead without Yeast, mix 1 part honey to about 9 parts water and set it outside to ferment. Potassium sorbate Or a sulfite are also used to sweeten the mix, but the latter kills the yeast. If oxygen gets To your must (that's what the mix you made to ferment is called), it'll turn into vinegar instead Of mead. Vikings did this and the recipes are apparently largely the same. Mead is a more Complex sugar than beer or wine. Mead can be up to 15% alcohol, depending on a lot of Things, including the yeast, but often is much lower than that.

I saw a lot of questions and a lot of notes being taken, many questions from folks who Make beer who noted how very similar many of these processes are.

- 3. Secretary report:** Receive comments/corrections for the June 2017 minutes. None received,
Motion to accept the June minutes, seconded, passed unanimously. All club minutes are posted on Website - www.potomachighlandsbeekeepers.weebly.com
4. **Treasurer Report** - Kirby Vining. Current Bank of Romney balance, June 30, 2017, is \$1,044.38. That Includes a deposit for one new member (Myers) and check #134 for \$6 WVBA membership for Myers.
Motion to accept the treasurer's report, seconded, passed unanimously.

Kirby deposited \$10 cash to the club account from the one new membership, Sherman, and wrote Check #135 for \$6 to the WVBA to pay for that membership. Kirby learned that we have to change Our EIN before the IRS can process our 501(c)3 application, so that's been done. When the Name change is done, Kirby will refile. Kirby's been reimbursed for the \$275 501(c)3 filing Fee twice now, twice that money has been returned to the bank, so when this finally Gets done, Kirby will request reimbursement one final time. No money has been taken By the IRS as each of our applications has so far been rejected.

- 5. Old business: Club picnic is August 26th at Pavilion #2 at Brighton Park** (Fisher Road) in Moorefield, we have the pavilion all day, but we indicated we'd set up starting about 10am on that Saturday. Pavilion has electricity, charcoal grill (but we must bring aluminum foil or something To cook directly on), water. We'll continue to circulate on Facebook a solicitation for folks to bring Things to the picnic, but it's still early. We decided that though we have the pavilion for the whole Day, set up begins at 11am and aim to have food cooked by about noon - 12:30. We'll collect Names of items to be purchased via Facebook closer to the event itself. Each person will bring Something -- food or drink or whatnot -- and we still need paper goods and silverware and maybe Aluminum foil for the grill tops.

The August club picnic will be held instead of an August club meeting.

Tri-County Fair is 29 July - 5 August. Roy has reserved a space for us right next to his Family farm's booth, right under the grandstands. Roy covered the space rental, and Liability insurance is required so he combined us under his family farm's insurance. Thank you, Roy, for this help, without which we likely couldn't get a booth!

The club decided on the language for raffle tickets to sell, primarily at the fair but anywhere Appropriate, winner gets a hive of bees (hive courtesy of Jim Boyd and Middle Mountain Apiaries, bees courtesy of president Roy and Shoestring's Farms), option of \$100 cash for

The grand prize winner if that person would prefer. Second prize is one gallon of honey From Brian's Ridge Top Gardens and Apiary. Cost of tickets is \$2, three tickets for \$5. Raffle tickets have been printed and many distributed at the meeting. More will be sold At the Tri-County Fair, of course. All who took tickets were asked to return the stubs With name/phone of the ticket purchaser, and the money from the sale, to the club Picnic where winners will be drawn.

6. New business:

WVBA Fall Conference is September 22nd and 23rd in Fairmont, schedule and resgistration Form is under 'files' on the club's Facebook page.

Tentative plans for the WVBA Spring Conference -- no details yet -- to be at Ed Forney's Geezer Ridge Farm. WVBA officers noted that with such distances separating the various Regions of WV, not many people travel for example across the Alleghenies for an event, So working on a variety of locations and this one would be relatively close by our location And easier to get to than some of the events in central or northern WV.

The WVBA is asking member clubs for ideas on what to do with accumulated WVBA Money from dues, something to benefit the clubs and/or WV beekeeping. No ideas tonight, But likely because all minds are on the fair and the picnic. More soon.

Michelle contacted Sustainable Beekeeping (see Facebook information) and learned that The cost of having Billy Davis or one of his instructors come out to a meeting was about \$500. So the club decided that's a bit high -- much of our current budget -- though we very much Want to learn more about what Billy Davis is doing. So Michelle was going to tell her contact That the fee is a bit steep for us, but that we'd much like to know about any events where This information is being presented so that club members could attend and learn. (this done by consensus, no vote).

Club member Brian brought a jar of his honey and it was awarded by a mini-affle to David O. Second time Brian has done this. Thank you, Brian!

Mention was made of the annual event at Camp Hickory, excellent opportunity to Hear very experienced beekeepers talk about their specialities. The event happens In June each year, so it's over for this year.

Michelle, Brian, and Lewis were appointed the nominating committee for our Fall election. They will pick a roster of candidates for the October election, all in accordance With the club bylaws.

7. **Meeting was adjourned at about 8:45pm** for some delicious and exotically prepared snacks
Courtesy of Michelle.
8. **Next meeting: Third Thursday in September, 2017, which is September 21st** at the Bank of Romney Community
Center. Picnic in lieu of an August meeting.
9. **Refreshments for the next meeting:** No volunteers for snacks/drinks yet, will advertise on Facebook.
10. See you on at the picnic and the Tri-County Fair!!

Potomac Highlands Beekeepers Association (PHBA)

www.potomachighlandsbeekeepers.weebly.com

PHBA Meeting Summaries 2017

President Roy Funkhouser jrfunkhouser@hardynet.com 1331 Funkhouser Road Baker, WV 26801 304 851-6897	Vice President Larry Lemons llemons@frontier.com 642 Bethel Rd. Paw Paw, WV 21434 304 947-5217	Secretary/Treasurer Kirby Vining secretary.phba@gmail.com 16 Franklin St NE Washington, DC 20002 202-213-2690
---	---	--

Meeting Summary

Potomac Highlands Beekeepers Association Meeting

June 15, 2017, 7-9pm, Bank of Romney Community Center, Romney

- 1. Opening and Welcome:** Secretary/Treasurer Kirby opened the meeting as President Roy was on the way but not there yet, and Vice President Larry was away on business, about 7:10 and asked if any persons were visiting the club for the first time but all in attendance have joined us before. Bonnie of Augusta, Sister of Ed who joined us last month, joined and said her whole family has kept bees for as long as she can remember and she has two new hives of her own right now, started this spring, one doing well the other might possibly need a new queen.
- 2. Guest speaker:** None. Larry was to do a presentation on making mead from honey but because his work travel intervened he'll present that next month, July 20th.
- 3. Secretary report:** Receive comments/corrections for the May 2017 minutes. None received, **Motion to accept the April minutes, passed unanimously.** All club minutes are posted on Website - www.potomachighlandsbeekeepers.weebly.com
- 4. Treasurer Report -** Kirby Vining. Current Bank of Romney balance, May 31, 2017, is \$1,039.38. That includes check #132 for \$6 WVBA membership for Myers, and #133 to the IRS for \$275 the club's 501(c)3 application. Just the day of the meeting, the IRS returned the entire application package saying that it had to be submitted online, not via letter mail (which is exactly the opposite of what the IRS told Kirby), so check #133 will be destroyed and Kirby will pay by credit card to resubmit this application online -- again. The IRS did not note any problems with the application, simply returned it and asked us to resubmit online. Will do.

Motion to accept the treasurer's report, passed unanimously.

Kirby deposited \$10 cash to the club account from the one new membership, and wrote Check #134 for \$6 to the WVBA to pay for that membership. Kirby will resubmit the IRS 501(c)3 application online as instructed. Kirby will also order 1,000 raffle tickets from Pendleton County Press.

- 5. Old business: Club picnic is August 26th at Pavilion #2 at Brighton Park** (Fisher Road) in Moorefield, we have the pavilion all day, but we indicated we'd set up starting about 10am on

that Saturday. Pavilion has electricity, charcoal grill (but we must bring aluminum foil or something to cook directly on), water. We'll continue to circulate on Facebook a solicitation for folks to bring things to the picnic, but it's still early. We decided that though we have the pavilion for the whole day, set up begins at 11am and aim to have food cooked by about noon - 12:30.

The August club picnic will be held instead of an August club meeting.

Tri-County Fair is 29 July - 5 August. Club has discussed participating in that event again this year -- last year was a lot of fun and a success -- President Roy has an observation hive and is there most every year with family livestock. Trying to find the WV Department of Agriculture point of contact to sign up for space.

The club decided on the language for raffle tickets to sell, primarily at the fair but anywhere appropriate, winner gets a hive of bees (hive courtesy of Jim Boyd and Middle Mountain Apiaries, bees courtesy of president Roy and Shoestring's Farms), option of \$100 cash for the grand prize winner if that person would prefer. Second prize is one gallon of honey from Brian's Ridge Top Gardens and Apiary. Cost of tickets is \$2, three tickets for \$5. Pendleton County Press in Franklin is, according to the WVBA, the best in cost and quality. 1,000 tickets (the minimum order) is \$58.00 and Kirby will join in the spirit of volunteerism and pay for the tickets, that will be distributed to club members for sale at the July 20th meeting. Lewis S. donated \$10 to defray the cost of printing the tickets. Thank you all! Winners will be chosen at the club picnic on August 26th.

Two club members are known to be struggling with medical issues and we hope they surmount them and return to us as soon as possible!

The Hampshire County Fair is July 23-29 this year. Several in the club would like to do Hampshire in addition to Tri-County, but the dates of the two really overlap this year and available resources are coming together for Tri-County. We'll talk about this next year, but a whole lot depends on the dates and availability of resources such as the key observation hive.

6. New business:

Much discussion of swarms and nucs, but the spring is working out pretty well so far. Swarm season seems to be over, finally, though Basswood seems to just be coming out now.

WVBA Fall Conference is September 22nd and 23rd in Fairmont, schedule and registration form is under 'files' on the club's Facebook page.

Tentative plans for the WVBA Spring Conference -- no details yet -- to be at Ed Forney's Geezer Ridge Farm. WVBA officers noted that with such distances separating the various regions of WV, not many people travel for example across the Alleghenies for an event, so working on a variety of locations and this one would be relatively close by our location and easier to get to than some of the events in central or northern WV.

Brief discussion of speakers for our meetings, noting that next month Larry will talk about making Mead, and August we don't meet, so September and onwards.

Two club members were interested in contacting Billy Davis who runs a sustainable beekeeping Program in nearby Maryland. Billy doesn't travel anymore but some of the folks who work With him might be interested in coming to a club meeting in September or later. Several club Members are familiar with Billy's unusual and effective beekeeping methods.

Two club members had their hives inspected with particular interest in learning whether Or not their bees have a new mite apparently first found in Australia but not yet known To be in the U.S. Name is tripto...something. Apparently results of the club members' Hive inspections won't be available for a few to several months.

7. **Meeting was adjourned at about 8:45pm** for some delicious and exotically prepared snacks Courtesy of Michelle and drinks courtesy of Lewis.
8. **Next meeting: Third Thursday in July, 2017, which is July 20th** at the Bank of Romney Community Center. Larry will demonstrate mead making with members' honey. .
9. **Refreshments for the next meeting:** No volunteers for snacks/drinks yet, will advertise on Facebook.
10. See you on July 20th!

Potomac Highlands Beekeepers Association (PHBA)

www.potomachighlandsbeekeepers.weebly.com

PHBA Meeting Summaries 2017

President Roy Funkhouser jrfunkhouser@hardynet.com 1331 Funkhouser Road Baker, WV 26801 304 851-6897	Vice President Larry Lemons llemons@frontier.com 642 Bethel Rd. Paw Paw, WV 21434 304 947-5217	Secretary/Treasurer Kirby Vining secretary.phba@gmail.com 16 Franklin St NE Washington, DC 20002 202-213-2690
---	---	--

Meeting Summary

Potomac Highlands Beekeepers Association Meeting

May 18, 2017, 7-9pm, Bank of Romney Community Center, Romney

1. **Opening and Welcome:** President Roy Funkhouser opened the meeting at about 7:10pm and asked if any persons were visiting the club for the first time but all in attendance have joined us before.
2. **Guest speaker:** None.
3. **Secretary report:** Receive comments/corrections for the April 2017 minutes. None received, **Motion to accept the April minutes, passed unanimously.** All club minutes are posted on Website - www.potomachighlandsbeekeepers.weebly.com
4. **Treasurer Report** - Kirby Vining. Current Bank of Romney balance, April 28, 2017, is \$1,218.11. That Includes check #131 for WVBA renewal for club member Fisher, #130 to Hardy County Parks and Recreation for \$30 to reserve pavillion #2 for the club's August 26 picnic at Brighton Park, and #129 To reimburse Kirby for \$429 paid in the process of incorporating the PHBA.

The IRS rejected our initial 501(c)3 application because the club's EIN, 20-8692501, is currently in The name of the Hampshire County Beekeepers. Revised club bylaws, changing the name Formally to the PHBA, will be on tonight's agenda. When the bylaws are revised, Kirby will Resubmit the 501(c)3 paperwork. The IRS returned Kirby's payment of \$275 in a check made Out to the PHBA, which was deposited in the Bank of Romney tonight, so Kirby will have to Make a new check or credit card payment and seek reimbursement from the club.

Motion to accept the treasurer's report, passed unanimously.

5. **Old business: Club picnic is August 26th at Pavilion #2 at Brighton Park** (Fisher Road) in Moorefield, we have the pavilion all day, but we indicated we'd set up starting about 10am on that Saturday. Pavilion has electricity, charcoal grill (but we must bring aluminum foil or something To cook directly on), water.

Brian was going to make a new Facebook posting to urge people to sign up with what They'll bring to the picnic. Lewis B. said he'd bring italian sausage.

Tri-County Fair is 29 July - 5 August. Club has discussed participating in that event again this Year -- last year was a lot of fun and a success -- President Roy has an observation hive and

Is there most every year with family livestock.

The following suggestions for the Tri-County Fair on July 29th were proposed:

- The club should print raffle tickets offering a beehive with a colony of bees as first Prize (Jim Boyd of Middle Mountain Apiaries to provide the hive, Roy F. the bees), And a gallon of honey (provided by Brian U.) as second prize. It was also proposed That the winner of the hive could be offered cash instead, and the cash would come From offering the hive/bees for sale and give the winner that amount of cash. It was proposed that the drawing for the winner be done at the club picnic on August 26th. Jim Boyd stipulated one condition under which he'd donate the hive: it will be painted Pink for reasons to do with his possession of a lot of pink paint(!).

Motion to accept this proposal, passed unanimously.

Discussion of where to get raffle tickets printed. A shop on Main St. in Moorefield, ?Hilyard's?, near the Judy & Judy Law Offices a possibility, and Kirby said he'd Asked the WVBA treasurer where they got their raffle tickets printed.

PHBA Vice President Larry L. will demonstrate how to make mead out of honey at the June meeting.

6. New business:

Revised bylaws:

Main point of revising bylaws is that when Kirby applied for the club's tax-exempt status, The IRS rejected the application because the club's EIN is still in the name of the Hampshire County Beekeepers Association. That's changed in the new bylaws.

Also changed:

- Club currently has a combined secretary/treasurer, but the club may choose to Make that two positions instead of one.
- Secretary's job is to take minutes -- added.
- First sentence in paragraph C, about dues, was removed
- Phrase added to paragraph E: ...and new officers will assume office at the next meeting.

Motion to accept the revised bylaws including these changes: unanimous, 10 for, 0 against, 0 abstain. Motion carried. Kirby has posted the new bylaws on the club Facebook page Under 'Files' and will include them in the new 501(c)3 application.

Much discussion of swarms and nucs, but the spring is working out pretty well so far.

Brian U. said that there's a beekeeping event at Camp Hickory soon and he'll put details Of that on the club Facebook page.

Brief discussion of a couple cases where someone 'stole' club emails and sent fake Scam messages to other members. Two officers in one case, one club member in another.

7. Meeting was adjourned at about 8:35pm for cookies (Brian) and sodas (Lewis)!

8. Next meeting: Third Thursday in June, 2017, which is June 15th at the Bank of Romney Community Center. Larry will demonstrate mead making with members' honey. .

9. Refreshments for the next meeting: Michelle M. volunteered to bring snacks of some kind, no Offers yet to bring drinks.

10. See you on June 15th!

Potomac Highlands Beekeepers Association (PHBA)

www.potomachighlandsbeekeepers.weebly.com

PHBA Meeting Summaries 2017

President Roy Funkhouser jrfunkhouser@hardynet.com 1331 Funkhouser Road Baker, WV 26801 304 851-6897	Vice President Larry Lemons llemons@frontier.com 642 Bethel Rd. Paw Paw, WV 21434 304 947-5217	Secretary/Treasurer Kirby Vining secretary.phba@gmail.com 16 Franklin St NE Washington, DC 20002 202-213-2690
---	---	--

Meeting Summary

Potomac Highlands Beekeepers Association Meeting

April 20, 2017, 7-9pm, Bank of Romney Community Center, Romney

- 1. Opening and Welcome:** President Roy Funkhouser opened the meeting at about 7:10pm and asked if any persons were visiting the club for the first time but all in attendance have joined us before.
- 2. Guest speaker:** None.
- 3. Secretary report:** Receive comments/corrections for the March 2017 minutes. None received, Motion to accept the March minutes, passed unanimously. All club minutes are posted on Website - www.potomachighlandsbeekeepers.weebly.com
- 4. Treasurer Report** - Kirby Vining. One member, Fisher, renewed membership, \$10 deposited at Bank of Romney, check #131 for \$6 sent to WVBA treasurer. Michelle Mack said that she had reserved pavilion #2 for the club picnic at Brighton Park in Moorefield and noted that the Hardy County Parks & Recreation Commission wanted payment in advance, \$30, so Kirby wrote club check #130 for that. Kirby said that he had paid for the club's Incorporation, \$154, and 501(c)3 application, \$275, and so requested reimbursement. Motion to approve treasurer's report and a check to Kirby for this total, \$429, check #129, passed unanimously. Our club is Incorporated, but the 501(c)3 process is not yet complete. No more fees due for incorporation other than the annual \$25 fee to maintain Our business license.
- 5. Old business: Club picnic is August 26th at Pavilion #2 at Brighton Park** (Fisher Road) in Moorefield, we have the pavilion all day, but we indicated we'd set up starting about 10am on that Saturday. Pavilion has electricity, charcoal grill (but we must bring aluminum foil or something To cook directly on), water.

Tri-County Fair is 29 July - 5 August. Club has discussed participating in that event again this Year -- last year was a lot of fun and a success -- President Roy has an observation hive and Is there most every year with family livestock.
p Hampshire County Fair is about the same time, dates not yet seen.
- 6. New business:**
Much discussion of swarms and nucs, but the spring is working out pretty well so far. A couple members who purchased packages of bees were having trouble finding

Their queens or evidence that the queen was laying, but others said this may take more than
The one week it's been since package installation - patience.

Club vice president Larry Lemons offered to present to the club in JUNE on how to make
Mead from honey. He suggested that people bring in a sample of their own honey, he
Can mix it up so they can take it home to nurture it into mead.

No speaker for May, but all were asked to think of speakers the club membership would
Benefit by.

7. **Meeting was adjourned at about 7:40pm** for lovely cookies Michelle brought!
8. **Next meeting: Third Thursday in May, 2017, which is May 18th** at the Bank of Romney Community Center. No speaker identified.
9. **Refreshments for the next meeting:** Lewis B. offered to bring sodas, Brian U. offered to bring Cookies or whatever he could rustle up, family depending.
10. See you on May 18th!

Potomac Highlands Beekeepers Association (PHBA)

www.potomachighlandsbeekeepers.weebly.com

PHBA Meeting Summaries 2017

President Roy Funkhouser jrfunkhouser@hardynet.com 1331 Funkhouser Road Baker, WV 26801 304 851-6897	Vice President Larry Lemons llemons@frontier.com 642 Bethel Rd. Paw Paw, WV 21434 304 947-5217	Secretary/Treasurer Kirby Vining secretary.phba@gmail.com 16 Franklin St NE Washington, DC 20002 202-213-2690
---	---	--

Meeting Summary

Potomac Highlands Beekeepers Association Meeting

March 16, 2017, 7-9pm, Bank of Romney Community Center, Romney

1. **Opening and Welcome:** President Roy Funkhouser opened the meeting at about 7:10pm and asked if any persons were visiting the club for the first time. Carol Lee Curtis of Frostburg joined us, as did two persons who are with Sustainable Potomac Highlands, had the wrong location for their meeting but joined us to learn a bit about beekeeping: Patrick McCarthy and Jonathan (surname not clear).

2. **Guest speaker:** Club member Brian Umstead, of Green Spring, WV, shared his experiences with hive splits. Before beginning, Brian said that with the very cold snap the brood on the outermost edges of some frames in hives may die from exposure. He suggested cleaning them out. This cold snap also delays swarm season and the appropriate time to do splits. He warned that warm days before the honey flow begins can result in swarms, but after the honey flow begins it's less likely to happen. Big clusters of bees in a hive likely will start producing brood in February or March depending on the weather while smaller clusters start later. Brian does not treat his hives and his success in this he attributes to the fact that splitting hives breaks the mite cycle as the 27-31 days before a new queen emerges breaks the cycle. He advised that we must closely monitor our bees, evaluate what we see them doing, feed if necessary, move if necessary, requeen if necessary, and find locations where the bees do best with sources of nectar/pollen and water.

Brian noted that when drones have blue eyes, they're mature and ready for mating. No drones, no mating, and this is crucial in hive splits involving new queens from queen cups.

Swarming time: Honey flow will stop bees from swarming. Brian has about 50 hives and he moves them around to find the best locations for pollen/nectar sources, trying the different trees and plants in different locations.

We need to know how many queen cups are in our hives. Queen eggs are small and clear for 1-3 days, then become white and start to turn into larva. These cups are capped at about 8 days, and after about 16 days a queen will emerge. Leave them alone during this period, especially during the metamorphosis that happens about 12-13 days after the egg is laid.

Frames in a hive with capped queen cups can be the basis for a hive split. Take the old queen and a couple of frames of brood to an empty hive at a new location. This is a 16 day process. Move the old queen out before the new queens emerge and before the queen cups are long and drawn out, looking like a peanut.

Take two queen cells with two frames of brood for each nuc box you move the queen cells to. Leave the queen cells attached to the bottom of the frames where you found them. He recommends stuffing the entrance to these nucs with grass to keep the bees inside for a while, the bees will push the grass out of the way when it's dry, about the right time to box them in there.

Brian does a lot of his nuc splits in the winter, making sure they have 9 frames per nuc to provide enough winter food. He said that in his experience younger queens survive the winter better than older ones.

He merges two weak hives by stacking them one on top of the other, separating the two with a sheet of newspaper, allowing the two colonies to get to know each other as they eat through the paper to merge.

He noted that his queens routinely last 3-4 years, up to 7 years in his experience, but recommends requeening a hive that has evidence that the queen is not laying regularly, etc.

He warned that a fall drought, like we had last year, deprives the bees of the nectar and pollen they need, and can cause starvation. He moved some of his hives down near the river last year where they found knotweed and other plants sufficient to continue and thrive.

In a closing note, Brian has found that bees compete: a strong hive will effectively keep a weaker hive off of a nectar/pollen source, the weaker hive avoiding the activity of the stronger hive. Move one of the hives is an option to keep them all alive.

3. Secretary report: Kirby Vining brought copies of the February 2017 minutes, noting that they are also posted on the club web page, and asked for any changes/comments, without which he asked for a motion to approve those minutes with any proposed changes. Motion made, seconded, passed unanimously.

4. Treasurer's report: Kirby Vining reported the club bank balance as \$1,1201.38, most recent Bank of Romney account statement dated February 28, reflecting a \$100 deposit after the February meeting -- consisting of annual dues from 10 members (9 renewals, 1 new), and also included \$66 in dues collected at the October meeting (one renewal and one lifetime membership paid). Kirby sent a check to the WVBA, #127, for \$126 for the WVBA portion of these memberships. Cards already received from the WVBA. Motion to approve this report, passed. During and after the meeting three persons paid dues: Larry L., Harvey J. (renewing) and Benji S. (new member, PHBA only). Also, one of the visitors to the meeting provided a \$2 donation. Total of \$26 was received, cash, and deposited at the Bank of Romney night depository. Kirby mailed club check #128 for \$12 (two WVBA annual renewals) to the WVBA treasurer, Steve Roth, and expects to receive the WVBA renewal cards for those two by the club April meeting.

5. Old business: 501(c)3 application for the club to obtain non-profit status. After much discussion, the club members present agreed that this would be a very good thing to have, although we have no pressing immediate need for it, citing the possible donations the club could solicit and accept with non-profit status that would be a tax deduction for donors, IF we had that status. It was understood that there is a \$275 one-time fee for filing for this status, and a \$25 annual fee to maintain the status. A motion was made for Kirby to ask the WVBA to start the processing for our club to obtain the non-profit status, motion passed with one abstention.

Picnic: Great interest in a club picnic, suggesting August is a good month for that. Last year the club used the Brighton Park off Fisher Road in Moorefield. Discussion of whether to have the picnic at a member's home or a park, decided that a park was better for several reasons. A committee was formed (Michelle, Dawn, and Lewis) to look into Brighton Park, suggesting that we use a pavilion rather than the main house at Brighton Park, see about availability for Saturday, August 26th and report back. (Two days later it was reported that we are reserved for

Pavilion 2 at Brighton Park, for the entire day. Cost is \$30, must be paid before the event. There is a charcoal grill but we would need to bring some surface to cook on (aluminum foil, grate), and the location has electricity and running water. We'll need to approve at the next meeting and, if approved, arrange for the club to pay the \$30 fee.

6. New business:

Roy F. said that he'll be getting the nucs he ordered for some members on April 12th and will announce that when it happens. He plans to bring the nucs to the Bank of Romney Community Center parking lot, but more details later.

Members were reminded of the WVBA Spring Conference, April 21-22 in Wheeling, and at least one member indicated interest in going. Several others are busy with other projects on that date. See details on the club Facebook page or on the WVBA web page.

Members were asked to think of interesting speakers for the club's future meetings.

Motion to adjourn, seconded, adjourned for the lovely cake and drinks provided by members.

7. Meeting was adjourned at about 9pm for lovely cake and drinks provided by members.

8. Next meeting: Third Thursday in April, 2017, which is April 20th at the Bank of Romney Community Center. No speaker identified.

9. Refreshments for the next meeting: Kirby neglected to bring this matter up, so will announce the lack of volunteers for snacks and drinks on the club Facebook page before the next meeting.

10. See you on April 20th!

Potomac Highlands Beekeepers Association (PHBA)

www.potomachighlandsbeekeepers.weebly.com

PHBA Meeting Summaries 2017

President Roy Funkhouser jrfunkhouser@hardynet.com 1331 Funkhouser Road Baker, WV 26801 304 851-6897	Vice President Larry Lemons llemons@frontier.com 642 Bethel Rd. Paw Paw, WV 21434 304 947-5217	Secretary/Treasurer Kirby Vining secretary.phba@gmail.com 16 Franklin St NE Washington, DC 20002 202-213-2690
---	---	--

Meeting Summary

Potomac Highlands Beekeepers Association Meeting

February 16, 2017, 7-9pm, Bank of Romney Community Center, Romney

1. **Opening and Welcome:** President Roy Funkhouser opened the meeting at about 7:15pm and asked if any persons were visiting the club for the first time. Brian Umstead, long-time beekeeper in the Ft. Ashby/Springfield area, joined the club and described his past and present in local beekeeping.

2. **Guest speaker:** none

3. **Secretary report:** Kirby Vining brought copies of the October 2016 minutes, noting that they are also posted on the club web page, and asked for any changes/comments, without which he asked for a motion to approve the October 2016 minutes with any proposed changes. Motion made, seconded, passed unanimously. No meeting in November 2016 (12 November class instead), nor in December 2016 or January 2017, as agreed to by the membership. Motion to accept, passed.

4. **Treasurer's report:** Kirby Vining reported the club bank balance as \$1,127.38, reflecting a \$190 deposit -- received from 11 persons who attended our November 12th beekeepers class and paid \$10 for the class and a \$100 lifetime membership for David W. \$20 was given to Ms. Jennifer King of Eversweet Apiaries to defray the costs of her transportation to teach that class, a net \$190 deposit from the \$210 received on the class day. \$66 will be sent to the WVBA to cover one regular member WVBA renewal (Kessels) and the lifetime membership for David W. when the WVBA accepts 2017 dues (February?). (NOTE: The Bank of Romney most recent statement was received while these minutes were being prepared, statement dated 31Jan17, balanced unchanged). Motion to approve this report, passed. During and after the meeting one new member (Brian U.) and 10 renewing members paid their 2017 dues, total of \$100, deposited at the Bank of Romney night depository after the meeting.

5. **Old business:** Lively discussion about hive losses over the winter, several hives lost to dead-outs and swarming and just disappeared. One reported bees left after applying the oxalic acid vapor treatment, but discussion centered on not so much that treatment but what we know and don't know about the health of our hives -- did serious mite infestation plus the treatment of the hive trigger the departure, for example? Don't know. Several sources for packages of bees and nucs discussed but no one present had any new orders for nucs/packages (several pending orders, already placed variously).

Jeff M. reported attending the Maryland State Beekeepers event at which he heard Larry Conner and Mack Gingrich speak, and he was impressed with the presentations of both. Mention made of the speakers every month at the beekeepers meeting in Hedgesville, Tuesday March 14th at 7pm is the next one but no one knew the March speaker. The Eastern Apicultural Society annual meeting this year is in Dover, Delaware (date not provided), noting that this year's meeting was pretty close to our area, relatively, and many who have attended past EAS meetings strongly encouraged attendance. Discussion of speakers for future club meetings: former WVDA inspector Paul Poling (though later discussion suggested he's an awfully busy man and might not be possible) and Amber Lewis, VP of the 2Cs and a B bee club in Pennsylvania. New club member Brian Umstead volunteered to talk about how he does hive splits at our March 16th meeting and this was welcomed.

6. New business: Kirby brought up information about the WVBA Spring Conference, April 21-22, details on the club Facebook page. Reduced rate room reservations needed by March 21st. Many in the room indicated that that will likely be a busy time for delivery of packages/nucs for folks who are doing that (and it appears most are). However, the conference was widely praised by those who've been to these before.

Our club participated in the Tri-County Fair in Petersburg last year and those who participated valued it, both for getting the word out about our club and general interaction with the agricultural community. It was proposed that we return to a fair this year, discussion of the Tri-County, Hampshire County, and the Burlington fairs, but no decision made. We hear that the WVDA, who arranged space for us at the Tri-County Fair, also participates in the Hampshire County Fair, but no information on their presence at the Burlington fair. It was noted that we were invited to present at the Tri-County Fair last year because WVDA usually gets Patterson Creek Apiaries to put on a display, but Patterson Creek (Ed Barbe and family) had no honey harvest last year. Strong interest in participating in at least one fair this year, but no decision about which one yet.

WVBA treasurer Steve Roth tells us that while the WVBA will not be sponsoring the 501(c)3 non-profit paperwork for WVBA member clubs as originally anticipated, he would work with any club that wants to go through with this, noting that there's a \$275 fee to do so. Many asked if this is recurring, or a one-time fee, and are there any other attendant fees. I'll ask Steve and report back. There was considerable interest in this, not so much for the tax-free purchase of goods by the club because the club hasn't done much of that, but because local businesses likely would be eager to donate to our club if we had this tax-deductible status. More on this at the next meeting when I have information from Steve -- the offer and interest are both standing, no deadline or timetable to this.

One member lost 160 hives of bees, apparently for moving them down south too late in the season after the colonies had retired for the season and were suddenly surprised at the warm weather and unprepared for it. Another member noted that in the current American Bee Journal Randy Oliver has a recipe for attacking mites. One member said he has seen that his colonies are building brood already with the couple of warm days.

Recipes for feeding bees were discussed, two who provide pollen powder very near their hives, another uses Ultra Bee or Bee Pro powder, loose but very near the hive. One member recommended a mix of wheat flour, corn meal, and brewers' yeast to get protein to his bees.

Brief discussion, with pictures, of an assassin bee that two beekeepers have seen killing their bees. Looks like a rather large horsefly but bright yellow and black.

Brief discussion of our successful club picnic last year and thoughts about doing it again, but no details decided. This topic will be brought up again.

7. Meeting was adjourned at about 9pm for cookies and cake brought by members. Thank you!

8. Next meeting: Third Thursday in March, 2017, which is March 16th at the Bank of Romney Community Center. Speaker will be club member Brian Umstead speaking about how he splits hives.

9. Refreshments for the next meeting: Janet/Elvin said they would bring drinks, Nancy/Lewis S. said they'd bring a cake.

10. See you on March 16th and thank you all for a wonderful first 2017 meeting on such a cold night!