

## OCBA Meeting Minutes, April 9, 2020

Cynthia Speed, Secretary

Celeste Mayer, president and Carrie Donley, vice president did a fabulous job setting up a virtual meeting via zoom. At least 58 participants tuned in.

Celeste opened the meeting by welcoming everyone then turned the meeting over to Carrie. Carrie talked about the need to cancel our March meeting and said that she was working to reschedule the speaker. She introduced our speaker for the evening, Anya McQuirk who presented to us her studies on “Monitoring the SAS Hives: Lessons Learned”. This was a fascinating talk. Using computer vision, she monitored real-time streaming data from the hives to include hive weight, internal temperature and humidity, acoustics, and bee activity. It was fascinating to view the graphs with her and see a drop in weight when a hive swarmed or was robbed out. There were similar discoveries from the temperature sensor, acoustic data (like how a hive sounds with and without a queen) and the ability to black out the background in order to count bees coming and going from the hive. Those who hadn’t heard a queen piping or didn’t know that workers piped got a chance to hear it first-hand. Carrie thoughtfully posted a link to the video recording so that those unable to attend could see and hear this excellent talk. The link is on the home page of the OCBA website ([www.theocba.org](http://www.theocba.org)). Enjoy!

Randall Austin as NCSBA Piedmont Regional Director, requested that attendees log onto the NCSBA website and click the link on the front page to see a note from NCSBA president Paul Neubold about beekeeping in N.C. while the Stay-At-Home order is in effect. Steve Troxler, NC Commissioner of Agriculture, has issued a letter to permit travel as honeybees and beekeeping are considered agricultural and essential. The letter is available for download. The NCSBA executive committee met via email and determined it prudent to cancel the summer meeting at Flat Rock this year as well as the Born and Bred classes. How they will handle Chapter of the Year was undecided. Randall mentioned that University of Pennsylvania currently has free online beekeeper learning opportunities.

Dawn Rogers, director of outreach, told us that the Science Expo at UNC on April 4<sup>th</sup> had been canceled, Orange County 4-H Summer Camp had been canceled, and the April 24<sup>th</sup> Farmer’s Market Earth Evening event had been canceled.

Tim Struttman and Jayne Stuart, coordinators for our Honey Bee Collaborative, reported that meeting without an apiary visit was challenging but the leaders have met via zoom and entertained the idea of using cell phones while performing hive inspections.

Lisa Vogel, director of mentorship and apprentices, reported that our Honey Bee clusters were being challenged as well but going along as well as they can.

Celeste reported that the website redesign group, met on Monday (Apr 6) and laid out their next steps. They reviewed a mockup via Word Press and discussed using an external vendor vs doing it themselves.

Celeste said that the Bylaws were now up on the OCBA website.

Walter Starks asked if the membership would be voting on the Bylaws. John Rintoul clarified. When we incorporated separately from the NCSBA, we drew up our own bylaws and those initial bylaws are what is on the website now. Future changes will require a vote.

Carrie reported that the MBP study group will continue.

Carrie said that coming up next month, a password will be needed and available to those signed up on the list serve. This will be in place as security against zoom bombing which is when an uninvited guest takes over the meeting to share unpleasant images, sounds, etc.

She said that our program next month will feature Patrick Jones, Deputy Director of Pesticide Programs who will speak on mosquito spraying.