



## **General Membership Meeting Minutes**

March 25, 2022, Monmouth County Agriculture Building

6:30 pm – Networking, 7:00 pm Meeting

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Moment of Silence for Karoly Toth and Cynthia Wertz
4. Introduction of Executive Board Members + General Outline of Membership Involvement
5. Committee Reports
  - a. **Treasurer Report + Introduction of Audit Committee (Lew Goldberg + Brian Haluska):** No audit report due. Treasurer Lew Goldberg thanked Curtis Crowell and Pat Evans (Past Treasurers) for their help and support during the Treasurer position transition. Treasurer's Report total: \$22,639.76. Lew indicated that the Market Rate Account will be rolled into the General Account in the near future.
  - b. **Education Committee + Summary of Winter Beekeeping Course (Jeff Burd + Taylor Fischer):** Taylor stated that the spring course went well. Treatment methods and good practices were stressed as was membership in CJBA. Jeff Burd will be sending an email to participants regarding the field trip for hive inspection. A member who took the course, stated how much he learned and enjoyed the experience.
  - c. **Fair Chair + Upcoming Events + Oak Tree Lodge (Geff Vitale):**

**The Monmouth County Fair** will be held July 22<sup>nd</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup>. Hours have increased and the fair will be open during the week until 11:00 PM. Saturday hours are 11:00 AM-11:00 PM and Sunday 11:00 AM-6:00 PM. Volunteers are needed for scheduled shiftwork. "Sign Me Up" will be used online. Shirts with the CJBA logo, hats or aprons will be provided for the volunteers.

**Family Bee Day Picnic:** The picnic will be held on Sunday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> at Oak Tree Lodge on Schoolhouse Road in Wall Township, from 12:00 Noon to 5:00 PM. Members will pay \$10.00 each. The charge for children is \$8.00 and

children under 5 are free. The event will be a networking opportunity as opposed to scheduled workshops. A 50/50 may be possible.

**Oak Tree Lodge Food Truck Event:** This may be planned in October. It will be a two day event and vendors will be needed.

**Forestry Event in Jackson:** Mike and Pam Devine have set up educational presentations in the past. It is possible that the event may not take place this year. During the discussion, it was noted that 3 educational trifold are available for presentations. NJBA pamphlets are also available for presenters. A kiosk with laptops is also available. This has been in storage and the laptops are outdated. CJBA member, Diane, volunteered to followup.

**Thompson Park Day:** Thompson Park Day is usually scheduled in October. Although the date has not been determined, CJBA usually participates and sells honey, honey sticks, hand cream and lip balm. Volunteers for shiftwork will be needed.

**d. Membership Committee (Virginia Spitale + Catherine Wetzell)**

- e. **Social Media Committee + Introduction of Private Facebook Group for CJBA Members Only (Danielle Garske):** A “Members Only” facebook group will be created and volunteer moderators will be needed.

6. Old Business:

7. New Business

**a. Katie Culbert Publication in Journal of Research High School (JRHS) for Breakthroughs in Honey Bee Health: Continuous-Release Mist Diffusion of Thymol-Based Essential Oils:**

Katie’s latest research, Continuous-Release Mist Diffusion of Thymol-Based Essential Oils, Part II: The Field Study, has done very well in science competitions so far. In February, she was awarded first place among Poster Presentations at the Rutgers Junior Science and Humanities Symposium and is now a finalist competing at the National Junior Science and Humanities Symposium taking place April 20-23<sup>rd</sup> in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Most recently, she came in First Place in Animal Sciences at the Jersey Shore Science Fair at Stockton University and has advanced to the Delaware Valley Regional

Science Fair taking place April 6<sup>th</sup> in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Participants receiving medals at Delaware Valley will advance to the Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair. As a follow-up to her laboratory research last year, (entitled "Breakthroughs in Honey Bee Health: Continuous-Release Mist Diffusion of Thymol-Based Essential Oils"), her research paper has been accepted for publication in the *Journal of Research High School* and will be published later this spring. Katie's winning 4-H essay, "Varroa, American Foulbrood, and the Amazing Honey Bee" was published in *American Beekeeping Federation Quarterly* (Vol. 79, No 4, 2021). This past Sunday, March 21st, Katie had her first 4H Busy Bees Beekeeping Club meeting of 2022. Her club received a grant from 4H to plant a pollinator garden at Jakes Branch County Park for her hives. In addition to these accomplishments, Katie has participated in her first YMCA Nationals. She swims for Greater Monmouth YMCA and will be competing in the 200 backstroke. She leaves for the YMCA Nationals in Greensboro, NC tomorrow and will return on April 2<sup>nd</sup>.

- b. **Interest in Statewide NJBA In-Person Meeting:** The membership was asked about future NJBA picnic plans. In the past, this picnic was held at Bob Hughes house and an auction also took place. The membership prefers to continue plans for the auction since members were able to bid on equipment. The picnic is also a networking opportunity. It was also determined that an hour drive for the location was acceptable.
- c. **Cottage Foods:** Bill Manley from the Department of Health has said that Raw Honey should be exempt from the list of non-TCS foods (foods requiring Time/Temperature Control for Safety) and has indicated that Raw Honey will *NOT* be treated as a Cottage Food product. Beekeepers who are selling Raw Honey do *NOT* require a Cottage Food License.  
However, it is important to make the distinction between Raw Honey and Infused/Processed Honey, as the DoH will be regulating infused/processed honey.

During a recent meeting with Bill Manley from the NJ Dept. of Health, and at The New Jersey Environmental Health Association in Atlantic City on Monday, March 7, 2022, Manley said that Raw Honey is a perfect food and that inspectors should treat Raw Honey as they've always treated it. Inspectors should walk away from Raw Honey, as it does not require a Cottage Food License. He also said that he has no intention of issuing permits for Raw Honey.

This is incredibly good news, and strongly indicates that the Dept. of Health intends to exempt Raw Honey from the Cottage Food Regulations. It is also important to note that we still need to "see it in writing" for it be completely binding. Along these lines, Manley also reported:

The DoH is in the process of changing Chapter 24 of the New Jersey Administrative Code (N.J.A.C. 8:24), Cottage Food Operator Rule. They will be making amendments/changes throughout Chapter 24, including changes to Cottage Foods. Specifically, they will incorporate definitions of Raw Honey and Infused/Processed Honey.

The easiest way to make the distinction between the two is that Raw Honey is 100% Honey, while infused/processed honey is a product that contains honey *AND* additional ingredient(s). For a more detailed definition, please refer to the Good Management Practices For Harvesting Honey at: <https://www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/pi/pdf/Good%20Management%20Practices%20for%20Harvesting%20Honey.pdf>

Based on what Manley is saying, it is okay for beekeepers to sell Raw Honey, as he is saying that it does not require a Cottage Food License.

The NJBA Cottage Food Regulation's Committee is pleased that the DoH intends to amend the Cottage Foods Regulations by adjusting their definitions, thereby making Raw Honey exempt. However, while we are optimistic about this most

recent update, we will continue to push until this issue is fully resolved and put into writing.

Although Manley has indicated that the Department of Health will not treat Raw Honey as a Cottage Food Product, he also stated that they will otherwise be actively enforcing the Cottage Food Regulations. We encourage beekeepers who wish to continue selling processed honey products, such as infused/flavored honey, honey candy, nuts or fruit in honey, or honey that has *any* additional ingredient(s) added, to visit the DoH website to familiarize themselves with the requirements for a Cottage Food Operator

License: <https://www.state.nj.us/health/ceohs/phfpp/retailfood/cottagefood.shtml>.

Last, Manley said he would intervene on behalf of any beekeeper selling Raw Honey that is questioned by a local health inspector and he will let the inspector know the DoH's interpretation of the regs. (Raw Honey vs.

Infused/Processed.). IF you have an encounter with a health inspector, please email Frank Mortimer at [frankmort@gmail.com](mailto:frankmort@gmail.com).

#### **8. Educational Presentation: Dr. Applegate ~ Honey Bee Veterinary Consortium (HBVC)**

We were privileged to hear a presentation regarding honey bee health by Dr. Jeff Applegate. Dr. Applegate began by describing a VFD which is a written (nonverbal) statement issued by a licensed veterinarian in the course of the veterinarian's professional practice that authorizes the use of a VFD drug or combination VFD drug in or on an animal feed. This written statement authorizes the client (the owner of the animal or animals or other caretaker) to obtain and use animal feed bearing or containing a VFD drug or combination VFD drug to treat the client's animals only in accordance with the conditions for use approved, conditionally approved, or indexed by the FDA. Dr. Applegate organized the Honey Bee Veterinary Consortium in 2017 which is designed to involve beekeepers and the state apiarist. The mission of the Consortium is to promote honey bee health, encourage collaboration between veterinarians, apiarists and

entomologists and to distribute honey bee related educational material and scientific information. The Consortium has grown to 22 states, 4 countries and is currently international. Dr. Applegate is presently involved in developing a honey bee Veterinary Certification Program which will focus on AFB and EFB diagnosis, treatment and proper handling. In addition, procedures for vets to visit bee yards has also been outlined and addressed. Dr. Applegate continues to research and develop these topics. His presentation was informational and inspirational to all!

**9. Raffle Drawing (50/50 cash prize, donations, new member items):**

David Weidner was our lucky 50/50 winner (\$63.00). He intends to donate the money to Villages In Partnership, during his Spring Beekeeping Field Day held on Saturday, March 26<sup>th</sup>.

**10. Meeting End:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:57 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela Juffey

Central Jersey Beekeepers Association, Secretary