

**Bee City Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes
January 16, 2024 – 4:30 p.m.**

Mr. John Monroe called the in-person Laurel Park Bee City Committee Meeting to order at 4:37 p.m. on January 16, 2024.

The following attended at Town Hall, 441 White Pine Drive, Laurel Park, NC 28739:

Knox Crowell
John Monroe
Karen Monroe
Pat LaSalle
Susan Brooks
Anne Hartig
Denise Layfield
Joe Robustelli

The agenda was distributed. Denise Layfield motioned to approve. Pat LaSalle seconded. The motion to approve the agenda was unanimous.

Denise Layfield motioned to approve the minutes of November 21 and December 12. Pat LaSalle seconded and the committee approved unanimously.

Old Business:

- A. Denise Layfield reported that the LPBCC budget request of \$2k has been approved by the Town Council. The end of the fiscal year is June 30, 2024. A portion of the budget will be applied to guest speakers. The Laurel Park Town Council requests that the Bee City, USA sign be limited to 12"x 18" maximum. However, the Xerces Society mandates that the size of the sign be 24" x 24". Pat LaSalle will contact the Town Council to inform them of the protocol. She will also contact Alex Carmichael, the Town Manager about the probability of the Bee City sign requiring its own pole.
- B. The committee discussed various movies to preview at a Special Meeting. "Queen of the Sun: What Are the Bees Telling Us?" and "NOVA's Bees: Tales from the Hive" were chosen. Susan Brooks will order the NOVA DVD and apply for reimbursement through the Town Council. John Monroe suggested the LPBCC build a library of educational bee/pollinator dvd's to have as a resource for future presentations. The LPBCC approved to meet at Denise Layfield's home on Monday, January 22 at 4:30 pm. John Monroe will notify Tamara regarding the special meeting.
- C. Denise Layfield proposed the No Mow May initiative footprint to be enlarged in existing parks and terraces in Rhododendron Park and other public spaces. The committee needs to focus on the best way to advertise, distribute more signs and communicate with landowners to become involved. Denise also suggested a No Mow May banner be hung at Laurel Park Town Hall in March or April to spread the word. Pat LaSalle will research

procuring a banner. Joe Robustelli proposed the LPBCC spearhead an Earth Day event on April 22, 2024. He suggested perhaps a Clean Up Laurel Park day.

New Business:

- A. The LPBCC reviewed activities to be submitted to the Bee City, USA annual report. They include:
- 1) Three serviceberry trees were planted on Arbor Day, April 28, 2023 at Jump Off Rock.
 - 2) Two pollinator gardens were established in Canal Park in early spring.
 - 3) No Mow May was initiated and the elimination/reduction of pesticides was implemented by Laurel Park Public Works.
 - 4) The movie, "My Garden of a Thousand Bees" was shown to the public on August 3, 2023 at Town Hall.
 - 5) Approximately 300 plants were installed in Laurel Green Park in the spring.
 - 6) Four to five hundred plants were planted in Laurel Green Park for the stream restoration project.
 - 7) The LPBCC acknowledged the World Bee Day on May20, 2023 and Pollinator Week, June 19-25, 2023. A proclamation was created and printed in the Laurel Park newsletter.
 - 8) The LPBCC participated in Shred Day on October 2, 2023. Committee members manned a booth with educational resources. A local beekeeper was also there to educate and share knowledge.
 - 9) Knox Crowell has created a logo/stamp to apply to brochures and developed a plan for a bee/pollinator hotel.
- B. John Monroe shared information and price quotes for printing of educational brochures and cards.
- C. The next LPBCC special meeting will be held Monday, January 22, 2024 and regular meeting will be February 20, 2024.

With there being no further business, Pat LaSalle motioned to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by John Monroe and approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 5:38 pm.

ATTEST:

Karen F. Monroe

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