

**Town of Laurel Park**

**Bee Committee**

**Date of Meeting:** May 21, 2024

**Time of Meeting:** 4:30 pm

**Location:** Town Hall, 441 White Pine Drive, Laurel Park NC 28739

1. Call to Order
2. Record those in attendance.
3. Agenda:
4. Approval of the Agenda
5. Approval of the Minutes
6. Old Business
   1. No Mow May initiative continues. Two-tier Bee City banner with No Mow May banner back in place May 12.
   2. Pat LaSalle has researched cost of No Mow May signs to be placed in parks and residential yards. Denise Layfield put in budget request for three of the “Pardon the Weeds” signs ($15/each). Status?
   3. Movie showing and Spriggly’s Beescaping presentation Thursday 18 April was well attended (approx. 50 people) and well received.
   4. Earth Day cleanup went well; some bags were placed in front of Town Hall – too heavy to move to back, were eventually picked up.
   5. Knox and others have contributed several Bee/Pollinator-centric DVDs to the LPBCC media library. Knox will create list of available DVD and submit list to Alex. DVDs to be housed at Laurel Park Town Hall. *Protocol and mechanisms to loan out these resources has not yet been developed*.
   6. World Bee Day 20 May 2024. Proclamation. Tamara said these proclamations are usually not posted anywhere, just kept in the office.
   7. Knox provided a link to a website that had bulk wildflower/pollinator plant mixes: <https://www.edenbrothers.com/products/southeast_wildflower_seed_mix>
   8. Brochure selections. John Monroe purchased several packs of brochures to augment the collection we already have in hopes of having a broader selection for our upcoming movie showing and future events. Total cost $38.50
   9. Adding relevant LPBC information to the Laurel Park website via Ilene who maintains the website as well as information posted in enclosed glass-covered boxes in each of our parks. John Monroe has compiled a list of items to be included on new web page specific to LPBC. This information was sent to all LPBCC members and Tamara on 22 April. Tamara has acknowledged the intention of adding a LPBCC link like Friends of Laurel Park’s Link to the new website wherein relevant information from submission would routinely (every quarter?) be posted. The submission contained enough information to cover four-quarters once started. Also, some information could be placed in the ‘billboards’ at each of the Parks’ entrances…e.g. ‘No Mow May’ initiative, and deliberately not clearing up park areas that provide shelter and habitat for pollinators.
   10. Communication with Ed Mattern, President of the Friends of Laurel Park, about how property owners can postpone or cut back on property maintenance in the name of building more pollinator habitat has/hasn’t happened?
   11. Pat LaSalle had an article “Why No Mow May” published in the LP Website, FaceBook and was placed in the information Kiosks in parks. Well done Pat!
7. New Business
   1. Approval of April, 2024 LPBCC Regular meeting minutes.
   2. Stephanie and Edward Eaves proposal: “*We enjoy our neighborhood and we would like to pledge to have our own clean up a Saturday morning every other month. We plan to concentrate by our home along Laurel Park Hwy from Hebron/Laurel Park Hwy cut off by Water Towers to Echo Mountain Inn.”*  Would the LPBCC wish to undertake promotion/participation of such an effort?
   3. Additional 4’x4’ Pollinator Week banner (without dates? June 17-23, 2024 likely different in 2025.
   4. At Susan’s request: A World Bee Day Banner and also, could we add Pollinator Week Ideas for June to the agenda for the May 21 meeting?
   5. Pat LaSalle and John Monroe met with Tamara to suggest a ‘Banner Calendar’ be created and maintained by Laurel Park personnel for the time/reservation management of banner hanging on the town’s stanchion by Town Hall. The calendar has been created and has been shared to John Monroe simply to ensure it can be shared. Calendar contents will be maintained by Laurel Park so submissions would go to them (I believe Ms. Shelby Greene the new Customer Service Representative).
   6. John and Pat will (have) attend(ed) the 5/21/24 Town Council ‘work session’ to present our case for the required 24”x24” Bee City sign. The Bee City powers-that-be state that “Each Bee **City USA** **Affilate** is required to install at least one Bee City street sign in a prominent location in their community. Each Bee **Campus USA Affiliate** is encouraged to install a street sign at a prominent location, but it is not required. ... “ Dimensions for finished street signs should be: One-line 24”x24”.

By the time of the LPBCC meeting 5/21/24, we should better know what the town council’s position on such a sign is. It is IMPORTANT to note, that not having a sign would mean that LPBC is NOT IN COMPLIANCE and thus would lose its affiliation.

* 1. The Great Southeast Pollinator Census – (GSEPC.org) is a citizen science project created by the University of Georgia. This project is designed for everyone to participate and make a difference pollinator conservation! Watch the video to learn more about how to join the count. Count days August 23rd and 24th. ***Note: When I clicked on several of the links within the website (i.e. the counting sheet and identification guide) I received this error from my Malware software: Website Blocked: gsepc.org v2.6.25|Heuristics: suspicious content. Malwarebytes Browser Guard blocked this page because it may contain malicious activity. I did not proceed. This does NOT mean the site is necessarily harmful. It is, however, a red flag to this former I.T. professional.***

1. Adjourn