

MONROE COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes for October 16, 2019

Members / alternates present: Mitchell Nellis (Brighton), RJ Schickler (Chili), John Zeppetella (Gates), Andy Less (Honeoye Falls), Deb Muratore (Irondequoit), Jeremy Dalton (Mendon), William Parkhurst (Ogden), Paul Sugnet (Penfield), Greg Adams (Riga), Shalini Beath (Rochester), Michael Duminuco (Webster), Haines Lockhart (At Large), Tom Dooley (At Large/Chair), Noel Schlageter (At Larger)

Non-voting Members / Liaisons present:

None

Others present:

Ward Graham (Brighton Honey), David Bridex (Brighton)

Staff present:

Rachel Johnson (Dep't of Public Health)

Meeting location:

Monroe County Medical Examiner's Office, 740 East Henrietta Road, Rochester, NY 14623

Call to Order:

Tom Dooley called the meeting to order at 4:03PM.

Introductions:

Introductions were made.

Privilege of the Floor:

John (Gates) – The town is getting ready to do the open door mission for the holidays

Deb (Irondequoit) – A few events being held at Isquare <https://i-square.us/> as well as this book she found interesting <https://trainings.350.org/climate-resistance-handbook/>

Mitchell (Brighton) – DEC came out with a new grant for street side trees

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/NYSDEC/bulletins/263b5d3>

Shalini (Rochester) – The cities climate change resilience plan is having an event October 29 from 5-7 (stop by anytime) at the city hall atrium to review the draft plan and share feedback

Meeting Topic(s):

Ward Graham, Brighton Honey:

- John (Gates) – wants to know if getting stung by bees hurts – Ward said it lets you know you're alive and after a while it doesn't hurt anymore
- Ward's direct email address is ward@brightonhoney.com
- Ward is a civil engineer and started bee keeping in 2010, he is his own boss and the bees don't complain, he said you can go on vacation for a week come back and the bees are still there
- If you have a bee emergency please call or text 585-747-6472
- Ward talked about the different between bees and ways to tell them apart, yellow legs are yellow jackets, honey bees have black legs and are very furry
- A few easy and great backyard plants for bees are mint and clematis bees love them. Callaloo is from the

Caribbean is also another great plant.

- Elemental iron is great to use on your yard it helps plants grow, Epsom salt is also a great supplement.
- Another thing to think about are compost worms, they eat the bacteria and bring oxygen to your compost, Ward says he puts any and all table scraps into his compost and these worms eat it all. If anyone wants any let him know, he has had hundreds for 30+ years.
- Digitalis/Foxglove – humming birds love these plants
- Trumpet Vine – humming birds and bees love it but it grows very fast
- Snow drops, crocus, daffodils all great for bees
- Dandelions are edible – the idea of not mowing is letting the grass out compete the weeds. Ward says he mows his lawn about 4 times a year. And guess what it stays green.
- 24D “round up” is a horrible chemical for bees and all life even humans since it can get into wells very easily– try white distilled vinegar instead, works better than round up and is nontoxic, cheap.
- RJ (Chili) – honey bees are disappearing, is there anything we can do? – Ward says it is a combination of the keepers and the mites killing off a lot of bees. The keepers need to treat so in the winter the bees don’t get mites and die. As well as trying to keep the habitat for the hives a live.
- Ward says bees can smell a drop of sugar in the ocean so they will travel and they will find the best flower/plants
- He gets about 80 pounds of honey off one hive and a healthy queen will lay 1,000 eggs a day.
- What can we do about carpenter bees and can we kill them?? Carpenter bees are no good they just bite into wood to lay eggs Ward says to just put mothballs in the holes to get rid of them
- If you put an empty hive next to an active hive will the bees separate and make another colony? Ward said honey bees will not jump into another hive but they will move around as a whole. They will not leave their queen for another.
- How often do you harvest the honey?? Ward said he will empty the honey out 2 times a year – spring and fall
- John (Gates) said you did not mention tulips and he always sees bees in tulips - Ward said yes bees go for the pollen inside that tulip as their source of protein
- Ward said he gets a lot of phone calls of people asking why their hives aren’t surviving first thing he will ask is are the hives near a farm field? Farms will get sold on this chemical to spray on their corn so they get x amount more of corn that year but if the bees absorb any of that chemical their entire hive will be die out
- Tom (At Large/ Chair) – How far do bees travel? Bees travel up to 4 or 5 miles but typically 1 mile depending on what’s around
- Deb (Irondequoit) – What is the difference between raw honey and regular honey? - Raw honey is not stabilized it is pure honey right off cone into a bottle, regular honey is pasteurized and filtered they will heat the honey at a high temperature to kill any yeast that may be present in order to prevent fermentation
- Deb (Irondequoit) - How long does the queen live for? – the Queen will live for about 3 years, the hive is running off hormones and if the queen dies the bees will feed an egg differently to produce a new queen, it is the difference in diet that produces a mature female.
- Ward stated that 99% of the bees die out in the field collecting for the hive, they only spend the last couple weeks of their lives out collecting and pollenating. Most of their life is spent as a worker bee in the hive

Questions, Answers & Comments:

Throughout the meeting topic.

Staff Report:

Rachel stated the county is now on a new email system and if you are not receiving the emails for the meeting please let her know. Also there is a great web page for more information on the well fields in Webster
<https://sites.google.com/site/websterwellfield/>

Other Business / Announcements:

Tom (At Large/Chair) – just a reminder there are a few more members needing to sign up for a subcommittee, Rachel will type up what we have so far so everyone can see who is on their committee with them. Everyone got their first choice.

Noel (At Large) – Talked about the USA today article by Detroit free press, here is the link to that article
<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2019/10/11/great-lakes-water-levels-even-higher-2020/3941750002/>

Adjourn:

Meeting was adjourned at 4:57PM.