



OBA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF MEMBERS
November 16, 2018
Best Western Lamplighter Inn & Conference Centre, London, Ontario

DRAFT MINUTES

For acceptance by the OBA Board of Directors, January 9, 2019

For presentation for approval by Members at a future meeting of members (Spring or Fall 2019).

1. Call to Order

Jim Coneybeare, OBA President, called the Annual General Meeting of Members to order at 1:26 pm. With more than 20 voting Members in attendance, Jim confirmed there was a Quorum.

Jim introduced himself and the 2017 – 2018 Board of Directors and invited them to stand to be acknowledged for their significant volunteer contributions to the beekeeping sector in Ontario:

Glen Ackroyd (outgoing)
Steve Bryans (outgoing)
Tom Congdon
Albert Devries
Dennis Edell
André Flys
Paul Lacelle
Emily Mills
Jennifer Penney
Lynn Philp (resigned October 2018)
Tibor Szabo
Bernie Wiehle (outgoing)
Jim Wilson (outgoing)

2. Minutes of OBA Annual General Meeting, November 17, 2017

Draft minutes of previous year's Annual General Meeting of Members, held at the Sheraton on the Falls, Niagara Falls, were presented by Jim for approval.

Moved by Dan Walker Seconded by Benson Osome

*To accept the Draft Minutes of the November 17, 2017 Annual General Meeting of Members, as presented.
Carried*

3. Proposed Bylaw Change

Jim led the discussion, noting that notice of the proposed Bylaw change had been distributed as part of the Formal Notice of the Annual General Meeting & Call for Nominations & Resolutions to all Members on October 24, 2018.

He reviewed the current and proposed Bylaw change, as circulated:

CURRENT	PROPOSED	RATIONALE
<p>14) Notice of the time and place of holding an annual meeting, special meeting or other meeting of the Association shall be given to each member by special notice by mail at least seven days in advance of the meeting.</p>	<p>Time and Place of Annual General Meeting, General Meeting or Special Meeting</p> <p>Notice of location and time of a meeting of the Association shall be provided to members at least 14 days in advance of the meeting.</p>	<p>An increase in the notice period from seven to 14 days is reasonable and is in the members’ best interests.</p> <p>In addition, a 14-day period brings the notice period into alignment with the requirements of the Agricultural and Horticultural Organizations Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter A.9, under which the OBA is incorporated.</p> <p>Removing the specific reference to “by mail,” permits the OBA to communicate directly with members who have provided email addresses and by mail to those without. Currently, 95% of members provide an email address.</p> <p>When the OBA was made up of a few hundred members, mailing was not an onerous or cost-prohibitive activity. Now at 1400 members (and growing!), mailing to all members is not practical or financially prudent. It appears to be the usual practice of many associations and charities to provide notice to members via email.</p> <p>Additionally, the current situation with rolling strikes at Canada Post has prompted review of this requirement.</p> <p>Going Forward: Current OBA Bylaws require a thorough review to bring them into alignment with current not-for-profit association best practices and legislation, including the Agricultural and Horticultural Organizations Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter A.9, under which the OBA is incorporated.</p> <p>In 2019, your Board will conduct a thorough review of the current Bylaws and propose changes to members, which will be debated and voted on at a meeting of members.</p>

*Moved by Dan Heffernan Seconded by Shannon Coleclough
To accept the proposed Bylaw change, as presented.
Carried*

4. Election of Board Directors

Chair of the Nominations Committee, Glen Ackroyd, presided.

He noted that nine nominations for five board positions had been received by the deadline:

- Adam Ritchie
- Andrew Pitek
- Bernie Wiehle (standing for re-election)
- Dan Douma
- Dan Heffernan
- Daryl Seip
- David Newcombe

Guy Anderson
Steve Bryans (standing for re-election)

He invited all candidates in attendance to come forward to provide a brief introduction from the podium to the Members in advance of the election. He read the profile for the candidate not in attendance due to a family emergency, Daryl Seip.

He acknowledged and thanked volunteer Scrutineer, Bill Ferguson, and OBA's Tech-Transfer Program contractors, Daniel Borges and Kelsey Ducsharm, who would distribute, collect and count the ballots.

While ballots were being counted, Glen introduced the proposed Resolution that was received by the deadline and invited Dan Davidson to speak to it:

Whereas, it is known that Apivar will not be a viable varroa treatment forever, and

Whereas, there are not many other effective options for treating varroa, and

Whereas, Thymol is an effective varroa treatment,

Be it resolved that the OBA poll its members for funds, for the purpose of getting Thymol registered in Ontario.

*Moved by Dan Davidson Seconded by Tibor Szabo
To accept the Resolution supporting Thymol registration, as presented.
Carried Unanimously*

5. Report from the Canadian Honey Council

Albert Devries, OBA's delegate to the Canadian Honey Council, made a short presentation:

Canadian Honey Bee Industry in 2016

- Ontario has 16% of colonies in Canada (Alberta has the most at 41%, of a total of 789,598 colonies in Canada)
- Ontario has the most beekeepers in Canada at 37% (BC has the second most beekeepers at 27%, of a total of 10,544 beekeepers in Canada)
- Alberta produces the most honey in Canada at 42%, while Ontario produces 10% (of 92,108,000 lb in Canada with an average of 123 lb/colony)

Canadian Industry Growth and Issues

- Labelling – Front of package, nutritional, and country of origin
- Antimicrobials access and delivery
- Food safety and biosecurity
- Expansion and diversifying honey markets
- Re-introduction of Fumigilin-B

Apimondia 2019, September 8 – 12, Montréal

6. OBA Status Report: Issues Management

Dennis Edell, Chair of the Issues Management and Stakeholder Relations Committee, presented, noting that the OBA responds to and addresses issues that affect the health of Ontario's bees and Ontario's beekeeping industry.

Current issues affecting Ontario beekeepers:

Ontario:

- Ontario neonic reduction
- Overwinter loss emergency compensation
- Crop insurance products
- Small hive beetle
- Changes to the Bees Act, including the 30m setback requirement
- Antibiotics access

Canada:

- PMRA decisions on neonic de-registration

7. Treasurer's Report

Tom Congdon, Treasurer, reported.

Membership updates

Tom reported that OBA membership continues to grow with 2018 (to date) membership of 1284, up 10% over the previous year (1171). The breakdown by category is:

- 129 Commercial (50 colonies or more)
- 532 Small-scale (fewer than 50 colonies)
- 607 Young / New
- 16 Industry | Supporter

He noted that Spring and Fall meetings have been well-attended (as is today's) and highly rated by attendees, and that almost 450 beekeepers attended OBA's Tech-Transfer Program Workshops. OBA's group liability insurance program, with a coverage level of \$5m (up from \$2m in previous years and since the inception of the program) continues to be well-subscribed, with 418 participants. The new sub-association, the Ontario Mead Makers Association, had 34 members. Based on ongoing requests, OBA launched a subscription program for the *Ontario Bee Journal*, available to beekeepers outside of Ontario.

Financial Report

Tom noted that, as in past years, the draft Financial Statements had been prepared by Warren Strutt of Strutt Armstrong Chartered Professional Accountants Professional Corporation of Milton, and printed copies are provided on each table. He noted that the Board had reviewed the Financial Statements and accepted them for presentation to the Members.

He noted that the largest single revenue category continues to be the annual grant provided by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, of \$132,500, that funds beekeeper education and training in Ontario. He indicated that 2018 is the 3rd and final year of the current Transfer Payment Agreement, and that negotiations are underway with OMAFRA for the next agreement. The next highest source of revenue is membership dues, in the amount of \$109,288.

He noted that the OBA ended the year in a stable financial position, with \$37,950 excess of revenues over expenditures (as compared to -\$2924 in the previous year).

Tom responded to questions, then presented a motion to accept the Financial Statements, September 30, 2018, as presented.

*Moved by Tom Congdon Seconded by Jennifer Penney
To accept the Financial Statements, September 30, 2018, as presented.
Carried*

8. Election Results

Glen Ackroyd, Chair of the Nominations Committee, returned to announce the election results, and again thanked all candidates for their willingness to volunteer.

He declared the following board members elected:

Adam Ritchie Andrew Pitek Bernie Wiehle Dan Heffernan Steve Bryans

Alternate (to serve in the event of a vacancy on the board in 2019): Daryl Seip

Glen noted that a short meeting of the new board would take place that day, following the conference program, to elect the officers.

He then asked for a motion to destroy the ballots.

*Moved by Albert Devries Seconded by Tom Morrisey
To destroy the ballots of the election of board directors.
Carried*

9. Adjournment

Jim Coneybeare adjourned the meeting at 2:40 pm, after which the regular conference program resumed.

Minutes: Lorna Irwin, OBA General Manager
Board Secretary

Subsequently, and at a meeting of the new Board held later that day, and chaired by outgoing board member, Glen Ackroyd, the following Board members were elected as Officers:

André Flys, President

Emily Mills, 1st Vice President

Steve Bryans, 2nd Vice President

Tom Congdon, Treasurer

Jim Coneybeare, Past President,

and Albert Devries was appointed as OBA's delegate to the Canadian Honey Council.

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