



Warren County Ohio Beekeepers

Officers' Meeting Minutes

Date: July 6, 2026

Time: 6:41 PM – 8:45 PM

Attendees

- Laura – President
- Anya – Vice President
- Jess – Acting Secretary
- Justin – Treasurer
- Bernie Jackson – Co-Educator
- Dallas Jackson – Co-Educator

Absent: None noted

Meeting Atmosphere: Positive morale and productive discussion.

I. Welcome & Agenda

Laura called the meeting to order at **6:41 PM**.

Meeting Goals

- Review finances
- Membership updates
- Bee School planning
- Apiary operations
- 2027 planning
- Upcoming events



II. Treasurer's Report

Reporting Period: June 1–30, 2026

Account Balances

- Checking (Beginning): **\$1,062.29**
- Savings: **\$115.08**
- Basic Account: **\$6,820.56**
- CD #1: Rolled into checking
- CD #2: **\$4,321.55** (Matures October 2)

June Activity

- Current checking balance: **\$1,012.29**
- Outstanding balances from Dallas and Justin have been paid in full.

Discussion

- Justin requested the club keep a standby extractor motor available for older extractors.
- Estimated repair costs for extractors: **\$600**.
- Laura suggested exploring additional vendors for: Anya, Jess agreed
 - Club merchandise
 - T-shirts
 - Welcome bags
 - Pens and promotional items
- Discussed Bee Expo ticket budget (approximately **\$200**). Bernie reminded previous meetings that Board should have at least 2 attend yearly.



III. Membership & Policies

Membership

- Total Members: **186**
- New Members: **2**
- Two early inquiries have already been received for the 2027 Bee School.

Potential Partnerships

- Continued conversations with:
 - Armco
 - Otterbein University

Additional discussion is needed regarding whether these opportunities function as club activities or separate educational partnerships.

- Otterbein possible opportunity to revive hive. Dallas and Bernie will follow up. Jess email with phone numbers to get started.

Bee School

Justin suggested creating a Bee School waiting list on the website beginning in October.

Action: Jess will research website options for an online waitlist and plans to update website sooner.

Extractor Policy

The board reviewed the updated **2026 Honey Extractor Rental Policy** and agreed additional procedures and instructional materials should be developed.



IV. Secretary & Communications

Minutes

Previous meeting minutes were distributed.

Newsletter

Updates include:

- Revised teaching schedule
- Added hands-on learning opportunities
- Added the Ohio State Beekeepers Association newsletter

Website & Communications

Discussion included:

- Bowyer Farm updates: Thank you card signed by board on behalf of WCOB
- No Warren County Fair booth this year
- Promote:
 - Bee School
 - 4-H Beekeeping Project
 - Apple Fest (under review) Not this year
 - Holiday Market
- Encourage members to distribute business cards at meetings.

Technology

Investigate consolidating:

- Mailchimp
- WordPress
- Website hosting

into GoDaddy if practical.



V. Education & Bee School Planning

Discussed expanding educational opportunities beyond Bee School.

Ideas included:

- Small paid "Boot Camp" workshops suggested by Dallas, an existing Member would like to help start possible 4 wks, small payment to share more knowledge directly after Bee School. Board all in agreement.
- Multi-session hands-on classes
- Advanced beekeeping topics

Dallas will begin outlining Boot Camp curriculum ideas for Planning Retreat

Planning Retreat

Tentative Planning Retreat:

- **November 19, 2026 (Thursday) 1-5pm**
- Followed by dinner at the Golden Lamb.

Topics:

- 2027 calendar
- Bee School planning
- Annual budget
- Educational programming
- Volunteer assignments

Potential Bee School planning meetings:

- November 21
- January 4



VI. Club Apiary Update

Bowyer Farm Apiary Celebration

Attendance: Approximately **45–50 people**

Event Retrospective

Discussion Questions:

- What went well?
 - Zoo team stayed and supported
- What improvements should be made?
 - Increase cost of picnic to help cover chicken.
- How did the partnership with the Cincinnati Zoo support our mission?
- Should this become an annual event?

Ideas included creating another Apiary Picnic in the future.

Recent Expenses

- Chicken sandwiches: **\$400**
- Repair of two older extractors: **\$600**
- New Layens extractor: **Approximately \$1,000**

Operations

For now:

- Extractors will be stored at Bowyer Farm.
- Jess's draft extractor policy will continue to be refined.
- Instructional videos should be created demonstrating proper operation and maintenance (Loren may assist with filming).

Action: Laura, Dallas, and Jess will schedule a meeting with the Cincinnati Zoo to discuss honey production policies.



VII. Upcoming Club Meetings

August 10

Location: Golden Valley Bee Barn

Topic: Honey Extraction & Products of the Hive

Members are encouraged to:

- Bring recipes using honey
- Bring products made from the hive
- Learn:
 - Honey extraction
 - Wax processing
 - Equipment operation

Potential honey sampling.

Laura gave a Time:

6:30–7:30 PM

September 14

Location: Normal

Speaker: move or confirm invitation with Happy Bee Acres (pending confirmation)

or Dallas

Topic: Possible topic

Recognizing Varroa Mites & Breeding Resistant Bees

Dallas will lead the meeting.

Laura may be absent.

Anya will also be absent.



Action:

Dallas topic of choice.

Jess will contact Happy Bee Acres regarding scheduling after a decision is made.

October 12

Topic:

Preparing Colonies for Winter

Possible breakout sessions.

November

Potential Holiday Market:

- Saturday, November 7
- or Monday evening, November 9

Discussion included:

- Vendor recruitment
- Early advertising
- 12–15 vendor goal
- Zoo ticket raffle (possibility)

December

No meeting.

Happy Holidays!



VIII. 2027 Planning

Planning priorities:

- Finalize Bee School dates
- Reserve Bee School venue
- Develop annual budget
- Publish Year-at-a-Glance calendar
- Review Mission, Vision & Goals
- Expand educational programming
- Increase workshop offerings

IX. OSBA Quality Award Update

Anya reviewed progress toward the Ohio State Beekeepers Association Quality Program.

Current status indicates the club is on track for **Gold Status**.

Priority items include:

- Membership growth
- Executive meetings
- Welcome packets
- Website updates
- Monthly programming
- Community outreach
- Participation in OSBA activities

Completed:

- Added OSBA newsletter to club communications.



X. Conferences & Educational Opportunities

OSBA Conference

October 23

Kent State University

Presentation proposals due:
Early September

Benefits:

- Statewide visibility
- Legislative engagement
- Educational opportunities

Bee Expo / International Bee Festival

January 7–9, 2027

Louisville, Kentucky

Approximate Registration:

- One day: \$175
- Three day: \$210

Discussion centered around sending two club representatives annually.



XI. Action Items

Action	Owner	Due
Research Bee School waitlist on website	Jess	October
Content for September meeting	Dallas	Next Mtg
Contact HappBee Acres regarding September meeting	Jess	After Next Mtg
Obtain additional key fob	Laura	July 10
Update club calendar, newsletter, and website	Jess & Laura	Ongoing-
Meet with Cincinnati Zoo regarding honey policies	Laura, Dallas, Jess	TBD
Develop Boot Camp outline	Dallas	Planning Retreat
Investigate website consolidation into GoDaddy	Jess	TBD



Next Meeting

Date: August 3, 2026

Topic: Honey Extraction & Products of the Hive

Adjourned: 8:45 PM