

**Toronto Beekeepers Collective**  
**Wednesday January 14, 2021 (Zoom on-line meeting)**  
**6:45 - 8:00 pm**  
**Notes**

Meeting called to order at 6:50 p.m.

**Members attending:** Alana, Allan, Anne, Audrey, Christine, Danae, Deborah, Humza, Jessica, Jonathan, Julien, June, Kathleen, Kerry F., Laura, Luc, Lynne (note-taker), Maker, Manny, Maria, Maureen G., Maureen (Mo) P, Melanie, Nancy, Nicki, Oliver, Orlando, Patricia, Robert, Robin, Savino, Sierra (with Emerson), Sophie, Sue G., Susan W., Winnie

**Regrets or not registered on the Zoom call:** Alessandra, Amanda, Bernie, Connor, Deirdre, Gillian, Gita, Helen, Jeff, Jude, Kerry G., Kit, Marie, Maryama, Niyi, Roy

- **Welcome (Anne/Robin/Oliver)**

Robin announced, for information:

- a. NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSION - id8 Downsview  
[NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSION \(see City flyer and meeting details here\)](#)

The City of Toronto is inviting people to an information session related to some of the lands included in the id8Downsview area. This meeting is part of a City-led process happening in parallel with the id8Downsview process. We wanted to share the City's invitation with you so that you can attend (online or by phone), if you would like. Regular updates regarding id8Downsview engagement activities will follow shortly, including the summary of feedback received in Round Two.

On Thursday, January 21, 2021 from 6:30-8:00 pm, the City of Toronto is hosting a Public Information Session to provide an update on the June 29, 2020 City Council direction to advance negotiations with Canada Lands and Northcrest to resolve their site-specific Appeal 134 (with respond to the lands designated Employment Areas within the Downsview Area Secondary Plan) to Official Plan Amendment (OPA) 231 in accordance with the approved Downsview Area Secondary Plan Review Principles. The City has said that this virtual public information session will provide an update on work completed by City staff in response to this direction from City Council and provide an opportunity for the public to learn

more and ask questions.

For more information, contact: **Steven Dixon**, Senior Planner, City Planning Division - [steven.dixon@toronto.ca](mailto:steven.dixon@toronto.ca); 416-392-0189

**Councillor James Pasternak**, Ward 6 Councillor, City of Toronto - [councillor\\_pasternak@toronto.ca](mailto:councillor_pasternak@toronto.ca); 416-392-1371

- b. ABC Bees: Apiaries and Bees for Communities: Tom Seeley – Saturday Jan. 16 at 11 a.m. Mountain Standard Time. A paid event but reasonable. <https://abcbees.ca/master-academy-webinar-series/>  
(see also the e-mail sent by Robin, January 14, 2021, at 11:23 p.m. for more information about Tom Seeley – and the series)
- **Beekeepers Report (Luc/Alana)**
    - Alana – everything is wrapped, nothing further to do, so little to report. Has not heard about a lot of die off, but if related to varroa mites, then there may be higher winter loss if colonies were weaker and had a higher mite load.
    - Our oxalic drizzle was done late November/early December, usually the last time hives are treated before wintering over.
    - it is possible that there is an apiary close by that did not do a treatment or did not do enough of a treatment. Those hives would be weak, and vulnerable to robbing. Varroa mites from the weak hive may attach to robbing bees from one of our hives that then may spread mites even to those that were checked and treated previously
    - Given how mild the Fall has been, there is a possibility that bees may be eating more quickly through their food stores. There are ways of feeding using powdered sugar. Difficult to put sugar water in a feeder because of freezing; syrup is difficult for bees to move around and take down into the hive. Luc suggests that Propolis (or other beekeeping supply outlets) has fondant that can be thrown on the top bars.
    - Alana confirmed that community hives have bee cozy wraps on them.
  - **Committee Reports (includes name of committee and triad, if available)**
    - **Finance (Nancy)**
      - No changes in the finances – still in healthy position
      - Starting to work on goals outlined in TD Friends of the Environment grant. Because of difficulty importing product,

accessible hives will be custom made locally.

### **Equipment (Robin/Maureen/Nancy/Alison)**

- Shipping containers (metal rail containers) – actual cost \$2,575 including delivery for one 20’ long, 8’ wide, 8’ tall
- (Item in chat: Maria noted CBC news item about scam sales of containers – just for TBC to take note!)
- There was a proposal at Discussion Day (November 22) to ask OSC if we could store a container at the back. Maureen would like to put together a really good proposal to present to OSC. Nancy suggested that we might want to know that OSC will be prepared to store the container before we purchase it.
- Nancy reported that a pallet at Foodshare rents for \$85.00 per month.
- Maureen suggests painting an otherwise beige container; Maureen wants to get an estimate to have a colourful “nature scape” painted by a street artist.
- Robin and Maureen visited Downsview hives, some of which were very light. Bees may be starving, so need to be fed.
- Robin and Maureen found “a lot” of mites on the bottom boards of the dead hives at Downsview (4 dead hives) and Black Creek (3 dead hives). Maria noted that there may be many abandoned hives around which will not have been treated. Bees that have been abandoned will go looking for honey elsewhere – robber bees – spreading their mites around.
- Normally we would find dead hives in March but not at this time of year.
- Maureen G. will lead a hive feed on or after Friday, January 15 (once she gets fondant), with volunteers Julien, Audrey, Robin, and Susan – maybe starting at 11 a.m. at Black Creek Community Farm and then Downsview. Reminder – only 2 people at a time in a yard as per COVID protocol. Nicki and Humza are available during the week-end if required.

### **Website/Social Media (Jonathan/Melanie)**

- Jonathan asked who has access to the Instagram account? Melanie, Jessica, and Luc.
- Jonathan would welcome a third person (additional to Julien and Jonathan) to be part of the website triad. No volunteers at the meeting, but anyone who is interested can contact Jonathan.

**Education (Audrey/Maria/Gita/Deirdre) - nothing to report.**

### **Membership (Nicki/Lynne/Christine/Kathleen)**

- Christine reported that no new members will be contemplated until Spring and/or when we know more about access to the yards with COVID-19.

### **Health & Safety (Bernie/Helen/Alana)**

- Alana noted that they had not yet had a meeting but would be scheduling one.

**Discussion of Committees and Committee Triads** – need to confirm who wants to be on which committee and which members are part of the triad (or quad)

- Members posted their preferences on the chat.
  - Jonathon will revise the list of members by committee. Members – please send what committee(s) you have chosen and send to Jonathan at [jbhmario@gmail.com](mailto:jbhmario@gmail.com) (or via chat if at the zoom meeting)
  - Members can check their current listing at: <http://torontobeekeeping.ca/members-area/members-list/> To log in, user name is first initial + “.” + surname e.g., “j.smith”
  - A member of the triad from each committee talked about responsibilities and goals for that committee – see Discussion Day notes, November 22, 2020 for a detailed list.
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- **Bees in the City** – Robin – What can we do so as not to disappear entirely this year, as clearly we will not be holding our usual one-day workshop format because of COVID. Danae said that Robin and she had talked about members putting together YouTube videos with beekeeping content – e.g., How to build a hive; voiceovers for ppt presentations (Audrey has perfected that for OSC). Danae welcomes anyone who is interested. Julien and Humza offered some techie help. Alana has a new GoPro which she is willing to make available for this project.
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- With no further business, meeting ended at 8:10 p.m.

Next Meeting: Monday, February 15, 2021 at 6:45PM via Zoom.