

Bee City Committee
Special Meeting Minutes
January 22, 2024 – 4:30 p.m.

Special informal Meeting held at Denise Layfield's home with the following members in attendance: Susan Brooks, Pat LaSalle, Joe Robustelli, Karen and John Monroe, Denise Layfield.

The committee viewed the movies "Queen of the Sun: What Are the Bees Telling Us?" and the NOVA production of: "Tales from the Hive." It was agreed that NOVA's "Tales from the Hive" would be the movie the LPBCC would like to host at a public showing (March 2024 date to be determined) at the Flat Rock Cinema. Joe Robustelli is going to coordinate the showing with owner of Flat Rock Cinema. Joe will also check with suggested speakers regarding their availability so they might speak when the selected movie is shown.

Denise Layfield asked LPBCC members present for opinions regarding not mowing certain terraced sections of Rhododendron Lake Nature Park (RLNP) The referenced area is routinely mowed (with some difficulty and presumed hazard) by Laurel Park and, it was suggested, that not mowing the area would relieve some burden to the town while at the same time improving habitat for pollinators and other indigenous Laurel Park critters. All present members agreed doing so was a good idea. Denise and Joe would then present the proposal at the next LP Parks and Greenways meeting.

Additionally, those LPBCC members present discussed the continuation of the Xerces Society's 'No Mow May' initiative for 2024 in Laurel Park and possible means of publicizing this initiative to a broader audience. Ideas included: adding to the February/March LP Newsletter, posting multiple notices to the online Next Door site, notification to the area agriculture extension offices and broadening placement of 'No Mow May' signs around Laurel Park and specifically to those areas, previously mowed/cleared, within RLNP so the LP citizenry will be made aware of this directed 'active neglect' in hope of improving habitat.

Finally, it was suggested that additional planting of wildflowers in and around RLNP would augment existing habitat for the betterment of pollinators.

With no further business the meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Attest:



John K. Monroe (acting Secretary)