



Town of Laurel Park Bee Committee

Date of Meeting: July 16, 2024

Time of Meeting: 4:30 pm

Location: Town Hall, 441 White Pine Drive, Laurel Park NC 28739

1. Call to Order
2. Record those in attendance.
3. Agenda:
4. Approval of the Agenda
5. Approval of the Minutes
6. **Old Business**
 - a. The 'Banner Calendar' was created and is maintained by Laurel Park personnel for the time/reservation management of banner hanging on the town's stanchion by Town Hall. Calendar contents will be maintained by Laurel Park so submissions would go to them (Likely Ms. Shelby Greene the new Customer Service Representative).
 - b. Two Official (24"x24") Bee City USA Affiliate signs have been received. Placement TBD – discussion to be undertaken in New Business
 - c. Stephanie and Edward Eaves proposal: *"We enjoy our neighborhood and we would like to pledge to have our own clean up a Saturday morning every other month. We plan to concentrate by our home along Laurel Park Hwy from Hebron/Laurel Park Hwy cut off by Water Towers to Echo Mountain Inn."* Would LPBCC wish to undertake promotion/participation of such an effort? – LPBCC members would likely participate but, inasmuch as such an effort falls more appropriately under the auspices of Parks and Greenways, would not spearhead the effort.
 - d. Additional 4'x4' Pollinator Week banner secured and hung during the appropriate week. Numerous positive comments by LP residents have been received.
7. **New Business**

NOTE: much of the following new business is gleaned from the Special Meeting held on July 9 at the Layfield residence. These items also constitute the list of the LPBCC's goals for the remainder of 2024 and into 2025.

- a. Approval of May, 2024 LPBCC Regular meeting minutes.
Approval of July 9 Special Meeting minutes.
- b. Determination of placement of Official (24"x24") Bee City signs to be finalized.
One would go near Hendersonville Country Club near existing 'Laurel Park' sign.
Second location still to be determined; installation to be handled by Brandon with Laurel Park.
- c. Effort to collaborate with Henderson Bee City representative(s) – Sustainability representative – Caitlyn Gendusa
- d. Add more Committee members – LPBCC to reach out to Laurel Park HOAs (list as of February 2022 provided by Tamara. It was noted that a LPBCC quorum is required for an 'official' meeting. A quorum is defined as 50% +1 member, this requirement can prove problematic with larger committees.
- e. A World Bee Day Banner to be considered for inclusion with other Banner ideas as discussed at the July 9 Special Meeting. Suggested new banners: Leave the Leaves (for the fall), Solitary Bee Week (July 2025), Plant Native Plants, Turn Off Outdoor lights (and close curtains at night), Earth Day (with Bee City connection?). There is money in the budget to cover costs.
- f. The Great Southeast Pollinator Census – (GSEPC.org) is a citizen science project created by the University of Georgia. This project is designed for everyone to participate and make a difference pollinator conservation! Watch the video to learn more about how to join the count. Count days August 23rd and 24th.
- g. Endeavor to have Laurel Park listed in the Henderson County Pollinator Trail
- h. Enhance Laurel Park website so to improve navigation especially to Bee City pages.
John Monroe and Pat LaSalle met with Tamara Amin on July 10 to discuss changes.
Updating existing data is easily done and handled by Tamara Amin, however, navigational changes must be approved by the Website Committee. Proposed changes will be brought to the Website Committee for consideration/approval when the Committee next meets. Meeting date TBD.
- i. Collaboration with Extension Office – new person to be added to our area Extension Office. It was suggested that the LPBCC reach out to this new person (once identified) to coordinate increased Pollinator/habitat collaboration with the Extension Office's efforts.
- j. LPBCC would like to have representative brochures placed at the Extension Office's table at the upcoming Apple Festival.
- k. LPBCC would like to participate in (and eventually sponsor) Pollinator-centric Field Trips for LP residents. Places to consider: Bullington Garden and Milkweed Meadows.
- l. LPBCC official renewal for 2025. We've spearheaded >3 public events thus far and continue to amass data supporting our renewal application. Additional discussion with Tamara about aggregating required documentation for our renewal application in a central location to streamline the application process is needed. This subject was broached with Tamara some time ago and warrants revisiting.
- m. Habitat renewal education (materials?) to all related agencies.

- n. Comprehensive pollinator-friendly **I**ntegrated **P**est Management (**IPM**) plan for Laurel Park's pollinator parks will be developed by Susan Brooks. (*Attendant to the IPM plan would be an outreach & educational effort to secure relevant speakers. Area HOAs would be contacted so to extend the effort's reach.*)
- o. Possible targeted planting of Canal Park mulch strip (along front boundary and in other areas of the Park, to include such pollinator-friendly and native plants as: Spicebush and Milkweed and other 'feeder plants.')
- p. Documentary movie night for 2025 (Disney Nature Wings of Life, others?)
- q. Addition of a separate/new LP Bee City website. Current accessibility issues via LP website are being addressed, although some website architectural issues are dependent on approval by the Website Committee which meets irregularly.

8. Adjourn