

Bee City USA, Carlinville Minutes

July 1, 2020, 7:00pm at the Amtrak Station and pollinator garden

Members Present:

Jon Ashby, Addyson Ashby, Nancy Mihalek, Paul Mihalek, Cindy McGuire, Kathy Ruitter, Ed Swiatkowski, Cindy Tipps, Ed Tawfall, Loretta Tawfall, Bill Link, Bobbi Bates, Julie Boente, Mayor Deanna Demuzio, Randy Tinder and Mary Tinder.

Yea, We Did It!

- Mayor Demuzio thanked everyone for their work on behalf of the City and complimented the volunteers on the many successful pollinator sites that have been established within the city.
- The agenda created by leaders Link and Tinder provided opportunity for updates on the requirements of our Bee City Certification status:

Signage

Alderman Bill Link provided samples of the pollinator signs and Bee City signs that were recently purchased and put on display for National Pollinator Week. More signs are on order and will be available for purchase to the public for \$10.00 each. Those attending this meeting will be given first opportunity to purchase. Orders were taken; Paul Mihalek: 2 of each, Ed Ski :2 Bee City, Cindy McGuire 2 pollinator friendly, Cindy Tipps :1 Bee City, Bobbi Bates 1 of each, Loretta Tawfall one of each. Soon the signs will be available at Brave Hazel Boutique and Cherry Tree Gift and Souvenir store in Carlinville for purchase to the public. Both businesses are involved in our projects and are “site stewards” or “adopt a planter” volunteers.

Proclamation

A proclamation will be presented to the Carlinville City Council for their approval and adoption, no date set for this, but it will be a part of our ongoing goals for 2020. The proclamation will be modeled after the sample provided to us by the XERCES Society. Bill Link and Mary Tinder will work together to get this requirement fulfilled.

Resolution, meetings, committee names, etc.

Kathy Ruitter confirmed that our meeting minutes are posted on the web site and our face book site is used for updates and educational purposes on a regular basis. Another requirement is that the names of our Bee City USA-Carlinville members be posted on the website. We will check to see if this requirement has been fulfilled.

Developing a Native Tree/Shrub/plant list

We agreed to adopt the Doug Tallamy Native Plant list as our local list and allow members to suggest other native plants to be added if appropriate for our area. If members have additions to be added, please bring them to the next Bee City Carlinville meeting.

Developing a Native Tree/Shrub/plant local supplier

Carlinville has three local plant suppliers. “Bobbi’s” Native plants and Custom Decorations, Ace Hardware and Kahl’s Greenhouse. Kathy Ruitter will add these to the website.

Hosting an annual awareness event (pollinator awareness)

This year's event (due to COVID19 restrictions) was an informal awareness activity that promoted the planting and purpose of pollinators through numerous face book posts during National Pollinator Awareness Week. The goal was to bring attention to the three demonstration gardens: Amtrak Pollinator Garden, Carlinville High School Pollinator Garden, Granny Wilson's Garden at the Carlinville Plaza. Each garden has high exposure due to their locations. Plants were labeled and informal walks were encouraged throughout the week.

We hope to continue educational activities/events throughout the summer and fall if the COVID19 guidelines allow. Anyone with ideas or suggestions are encouraged to contact Bill or Mary and the group can decide how to proceed.

Volunteer updates

Cindy Tipps provided an update from the perspective of a "site steward". She and her husband care for the Welcome Sign site near the new MJM Building on the Shipman Blacktop. They haul water every other day, weed as needed and troubleshoot problems. All five welcome signs are planted with native plants as outlined in the Pollinator Conservation grant. Local families have assumed the responsibility of caring for them. (weeding, watering)

Addyson Ashby explained the duties of the "adopt a planter" volunteer position. Volunteers are helping businesses take care of 19 of the 22 planters on the city square. Because of COVID19 restrictions, no large group was able to plant the flowers this year. Addyson reported on how they were planted by three youth: Jill Stayton, Ella Walker and herself as a part of "Make Carlinville Beautiful". The planters contain perennial pollinators in the center and others around the edges. The goal is to have the perennial pollinator plants make it through the winter while others re-seed to lessen the cost and labor of re-planting each one annually.

Pesticide Management

Bill Link will check to see if the plan was finalized and is on file at the City.

Other items

Ed Ski (Swiatkowski) has wildflower seed to donate if anyone would like it, please contact him.

Nancy Mihalek mentioned booth space at the September 19/20 Fall Festival at the Historical Society grounds. If anyone would like to be involved and help decide what type of handouts, literature we could hand out as part of an awareness activity, coordinate volunteers to run the booth, etc. contact Bobbi Bates, Bill Link, Bobbi Bates or Mary Tinder.

The Trees Forever Board and Bee City USA, Carlinville volunteers have been chosen to receive the 2020 Outstanding Local Organization Award. The Trees Forever organization contacted Mary Tinder on July 1, 2020 to inform us that they plan to come to Carlinville during the first week of August to present the award and place a sign at the new Pollinator Garden at the Carlinville High School. The exact date has not been set but Mary will let you know as soon as we know.

Next Bee City Meeting: Wednesday, August 5, 2020 7:00pm, location TBA.

If anyone has items for the agenda, please let Bill or Mary know. A call for items will be emailed at least a week prior and the agenda distributed and posted to the website (www.carlinvillebees.org) under About.. Mission and Documents. Scroll down to Meetings to find any particular date.