

## **HCBC Meeting Minutes – March 28th, 2024**

### **Introduction:**

- The meeting commenced at 6:30 pm at the Hoke County Cooperative Extension.

### **Resignation Announcement:**

- The Vice President announced his resignation due to a recent hospital visit resulting in an allergy to bees.
- Carl Daniels, the President, will also be stepping down due to health reasons.

### **Call for New Leadership:**

- Vacancies exist in the President and Vice President positions.
- All members passionate about fostering growth within our beekeeping community are encouraged to consider joining the board and officers.
- Monthly board/officer meetings are held every third Thursday of the month for collaboration and strategizing.

**Guest Speaker Presentation:** Dr. Kaitlin U. Campbell (Kaitlin.Campbell@uncp.edu) presented "Honeybees as Mascots for Pollinator Conservation."

### **Importance of Bee Species Diversity:**

- Dr. Campbell highlighted the diversity of bee species worldwide.
- Approximately 20,000 species globally, 4,000 in the US, and 500+/- in North Carolina.
- Around 100+/- species in the Triangle area, potentially 70+/- in backyards.

### **Emphasizing the Role of Native Bees:**

- Native bees are equally vital as honeybees.
- Threats such as mass farming, habitat loss, pesticides, and mites affect both honeybees and native species.
- Conservation efforts should protect all bee populations and promote diversity in pollination.
- 27% of bee populations are increasing, 44% are stable, and 29% are declining.
- Encouraged the building of habitats for the native bees to have homes.
- Plant diverse flowers that grow year-round.

### **Education Initiatives:**

- Dr. Campbell suggested using children's books to educate future generations about beekeeping history, pollination insects, and conservation.
- Gratitude extended to Dr. Campbell for her insights.

### **Conclusion**

- The meeting adjourned with a renewed commitment to pollinator conservation.
- Participants engaged in the 50/50 and raffle drawings.

The meeting officially concluded at 8:00 pm.

**Next Meeting will be April 25th, 2024.**

HCBC Secretary -Joanna Craig 

