

**VILLAGE OF LAKE BLUFF  
VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING**

Monday, February 27, 2017  
6:30 P.M.

Village Hall Board Room  
40 East Center Avenue

**A G E N D A**

I. Call To Order

II. Roll Call

III. Non-Agenda Items and Visitors (Public Comment)

*The Committee-of-the-Whole allocates fifteen (15) minutes during this item for those individuals who would like the opportunity to address the Committee-of-the-Whole on any matter not listed on the agenda. Each person addressing the Committee-of-the-Whole is asked to limit their comments to a maximum of three (3) minutes.*

IV. General Business

*The Committee-of-the-Whole will entertain requests from anyone present to modify the order of business to be conducted.*

- i. Consideration of the Minutes from the January 9, 2017 Committee-of-the-Whole Meeting
- ii. Informational Report from the Sustainability and Community Enhancement Committee

V. Adjournment

*R. Drew Irvin  
Village Administrator*

The Village of Lake Bluff is subject to the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Individuals with disabilities who plan to attend this meeting and who require certain accommodations in order to allow them to observe and/or participate in this meeting, or who have questions regarding accessibility of the meeting or the facilities, are requested to contact R. Drew Irvin at 234-0774 or TDD number 234-2153 promptly to allow the Village of Lake Bluff to make reasonable accommodations.

**VILLAGE OF LAKE BLUFF  
COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE MEETING  
JANUARY 9, 2017**

**DRAFT MINUTES OF MEETING**

The Village of Lake Bluff Board of Trustees met as a Committee-of-the-Whole (COW) in the Village Hall Board Room (40 East Center Avenue) on Monday, January 9, 2017. Village President O’Hara called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. and in the absence of Village Clerk Aaron Towle, Deputy Village Clerk Drew Irvin called the roll and announced the following were present:

Village President: Kathleen O’Hara

Trustees: Barbara Ankenman  
Steve Christensen  
Mark Dewart  
John Josephitis  
William Meyer

Absent: Eric Grenier, Village Trustee  
Aaron Towle, Village Clerk

Also Present: Peter Friedman, Village Attorney  
Drew Irvin, Village Administrator  
Susan Griffin, Finance Director  
Michael Croak, Building Codes Supervisor  
Jeff Hansen, Village Engineer  
Franco Bottalico, Administrative Intern

**Non-Agenda Items and Visitors**

President O’Hara stated the COW allocates 15 minutes for those individuals who would like the opportunity to address the COW on any matter not listed on the agenda.

There were no requests to address the COW.

**Consideration of the Minutes from the December 12, 2016 Committee-of-the-Whole Meeting**

Trustee Dewart moved to approve the December 12, 2016 COW Meeting Minutes as presented. Trustee Christensen seconded the motion. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Continued Discussion Regarding the Village’s Preliminary Draft 2023 Strategic Plan**

Village Administrator Irvin stated the Strategic Plan Facilitator Lynn Monte presented the Preliminary Draft 2023 Strategic Plan at the December 12<sup>th</sup> COW Meeting. The updated draft plan presented this evening reflects several modifications based on the comments expressed during the meeting as well as some descriptive headings for the various sections of the Draft Plan. Village Administrator Irvin reviewed the proposed modifications:

- Goal #1, Strategy #2 – Actions #2 and #3 were combined (engage the entire community in Village leadership’s examination of what it takes to enjoy a variety of quality housing options, including condominiums and townhomes, in the context of Lake Bluff’s historic housing legacy and the marketplace);

- Goal #2, Strategy #2 – Action #2 was revised to clarify the question regarding annexation (explore strategies to economically and aesthetically integrate the north side of Route 176, and the intersection of State Routes 176 and 41);
- Goal #3, Strategy #4 – Action #4 added to address the Fire Department and EMS provisions (continue to support volunteer EMS and fire service provision); and
- Goal #4, Strategy #2 – Action #2 was re-worded to address conservation areas (Provide education on maintenance of privately owned ravines and the benefits of conservation areas).

Related to Goal #3, Strategy #4, Action #4, Village Administrator Irvin provided an update on the proposal submitted by Libertyville Fire Department to assume firefighting service for the Rockland Fire District which covers the Knollwood area of unincorporated Lake County and the Sanctuary subdivision on the western end of Lake Bluff. A group of Knollwood residents have submitted a petition requesting a referendum that would ask if the Rockland Fire Protection District Trustees should be elected by voters rather than appointed by the Lake County Board. Village Administrator Irvin stated the Village currently has an interdepartmental relationship with Knollwood and, should the outsourcing occur, the Village may want to consider how the Village provides Fire/EMS services.

In response to a question from Trustee Dewart, Village Administrator Irvin stated the Libertyville Fire Department covers their respective area as well as unincorporated areas. Libertyville Fire Department also contracts with other communities and is currently a paper district.

Village Administrator Irvin stated he and Fire Chief David Graf will attend the EMS Shared Services Meeting and provide the Board an update at a future meeting.

In response to a question from Trustee Meyers, Village Administrator Irvin stated certain volunteer firefighters regularly respond to the calls because their desire is to be career firefighters.

Trustee Dewart stated many of the Lake Bluff volunteer firefighters are inaccessible from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. due to their work schedules.

In response to a question from Trustee Meyer, Village Administrator Irvin stated many of the Lake Bluff volunteer firefighters are available during the busiest hours from 11:00 a.m. into the evening hours but the calls received during the early morning hours of 1:00 a.m. do not have high responses.

Trustee Meyers asked if Village residents would be solicited should a need arise for more volunteer firefighters. Village Administrator Irvin stated he spoke with Fire Chief Graf regarding the possible of designating certain days to specific volunteer firefighters to manage an increase in operational expenses.

President O'Hara stated the Village might orchestrate a town meeting to engage the public in discussions regarding the matter as Village expenses can be significantly impacted.

### **Adjournment**

As no further business came before the COW, Trustee Meyers moved to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Josephitis seconded the motion. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote and the meeting adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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R. Drew Irvin  
Village Administrator

# MEMORANDUM

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**Date:** February 24, 2017

**To:** President O'Hara and Members of the Committee-of-the-Whole

**From:** Drew Irvin, Village Administrator  
Franco Bottalico, Administrative Intern

**Subject: Informational report providing an update on the Sustainability and Community Enhancement Committee's progress and pilot programs**

Established on October 26, 2015, the Sustainability and Community Enhancement Committee (SEC) is an advisory body to the Village President, Board of Trustees and Village Administrator. There are seven Members of the SEC that are appointed to advise Village leadership on ways to (i) improve the sustainability of the Village and (ii) enhance the community environment and beautification efforts for all current and future residents.

The following information summarizes the current duties and authority granted to the SEC pursuant to the Village President and Board of Trustees:

- Develop a Sustainability Plan that explores community goals and/or strategies relating to Social Equity, Energy Conservation, Climate Change, Economic Development, Disaster Mitigation, Public Health, Community Resiliency, and Green Energy Production;
- Develop a Village Beautification and Enhancement Program that addresses auto, pedestrian, and bicycle transportation routes. The Program should also provide beautification guidance and objectives on all Village-owned property;
- Examine the Village's progress in implementing the SWALCO Solid Waste 60% Recycling Task Force;
- Review the Village's stewardship role of certain natural assets (Skokie Conservation Area, Lillian Dell, etc.);
- Review and recommend Village regulatory modifications to further Village sustainability and beautification efforts;
- Review the Lake County All Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan for alignment with Village sustainability goals and objectives; and
- Partner with other local, regional, state, or national groups, as it aligns with our specific objectives, when appropriate.

Over the past several months the SEC has held public meetings and has invited various professionals and experts to educate the SEC on certain topics. The SEC has received educational presentations and discussions regarding the following agenda items:

- A Presentation from Walter Willis, Executive Director of the Solid Waste Agency of Lake County, IL (SWALCO), Regarding Agency Activities and Mission;
- A Presentation from David Bedrin, Board Member of Green Minds Lake Forest-Lake Bluff, Regarding Agency Activities and Mission;
- A Presentation from Sandra Hart, Lake County Board Member and Lake County Sustainability Staff;
- Jill Lenihan, Secretary for the Lake County Beekeepers Association and Jess Ray, Former Mayor of Mettawa, IL to hold an educational and informative discussion on apiaries and common local regulations;

- A Presentation from Evonda Thomas-Smith, Director of the City Of Evanston's Health and Human Services Department, Regarding Evanston's Recently Amended Beekeeping Ordinance, and a Presentation on Beekeeping from Lisa Hilgenberg, Chicago Botanic Garden Horticulturist; and
- Recommended the Village Board Endorse the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus' "Greenest Region Compact 2"

Currently the SEC has used U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Sustainability Planning Toolkit as a guide in developing its sustainability goals. The SEC has recently completed Milestone 2 "Establish Sustainability Goals" and has created a prioritized list of goals/tasks to present to the Village Board. The list has been prioritized with respect to realistic goals and achievability. In this list the SEC has included a brief description of what each goal/task is, and has included an action and implementation strategy to achieve each individual goal/task. The SEC recommends the Village Board review the list of goals/tasks and offer any revisions, if necessary.

The first priority of the SEC is education. The SEC has agreed that education will be the Village's greatest tool in achieving public participation. The SEC has placed backyard chicken and beekeeping as its second priority due to the Village receiving requests by certain residents who wish to volunteer for these pilot programs. Attached are draft chicken and beekeeping pilot programs which have been developed from a blend of best practices and other comparable communities' ordinances. Before making any further revisions to the pilot programs, the SEC would like to receive feedback and guidance from the Village Board.

If approved the SEC will begin to work on Milestone 3 "Develop a Local Sustainability Plan." This requires the SEC and members of the community to collaboratively develop strategies and analyze potential measures to achieve these goals. At that time the SEC will recommend to the Village Board its final Sustainability Plan for their review.

SEC Members and Staff will be present to answer any concerns from the Village Board regarding the prioritized list and two pilot programs. In addition, a volunteer resident who wishes to participate in the beekeeping pilot program, Dr. Swee, will be in attendance to answer concerns from the Village Board regarding his property.

Attachment:

- List of Goals/Tasks
- Draft Beekeeping Pilot Program
- Draft Backyard Chicken Keeping Pilot Program (work in progress)
- Illinois Department of Agriculture Bees and Apiaries Information
- Illinois State Beekeepers Association's Best Management Practices for Beekeeping in Illinois

Lake Bluff Goal/Task Prioritization List			
Priority	Goal / Task	Definitions / Descriptions	Implementation / Action / Other
1	Public Education	Educating and information the public on the SEC's initiatives and how they relate to Village- and Regional-wide goals. Each additional goal / task on this list will incorporate an educational effort.	Website, Newsletters, Pamphlets, and Public Meetings. With each of the following priorities, education will be utilized as a tool to reach out and gain citizen and business participation.
2	Backyard Chickens & Bees	Permitting residents in certain Zoning districts to have backyard chickens and bees will provide a healthier and more nutritious source of eggs, as well as producing honey. Bees also help plants and gardens thrive.	Draft Pilot Programs with volunteer residents.
3	Management of Waste and Recycling	Integrating a recycling program into existing public space waste services. Encourage residents and businesses to compost organic waste.	Adding recycling receptacles to parks/schools and having businesses participate in SWALCO program. Establish an ordinance requiring recycling bins wherever there is a trash receptacle (train station, streets, etc.).
4	Vehicle/Motor Idling	Meeting with residents, businesses, surrounding local governments and nonprofits to use each others' resources and skills to accomplish same goal/unified vision and to share and communicate information in an effort to increase awareness.	Utilize local nonprofits, Lake Forest-Lake Bluff Chamber of Commerce, Tri-Board and Lake county. Have local clubs and groups attend SEC meetings. Possibly have the Village dedicate a day to an environmental festival in collaboration with School and Park Districts. Utilize the Village's amended landscaping ordinance to reduce noise pollution by landscapers Village Public Works should consider replacing gas-guzzling lawnmowers and leaf blowers with propane or electric devices. In conjunction with vehicle idling and lawn maintenance regulations, the Village can reach out to the businesses to join noise pollution awareness and commitment. Reinforce this with Village's branded quality of preserving its sense of "aural tranquility."
5	Invasive Species Eradication	There are a small set of plants that didn't evolve in this region and are causing serious and expensive problems. Buckthorn, garlic mustard and teasel are examples. Featuring longer-than-normal growing seasons, astounding reproductive abilities and low disease resistance, they enter our natural areas and take over. As a result, dozens of native plant species and wildlife disappear. Many other aspects of ecosystem health can suffer as well.	Partner with Lake County Sustainability and other local organizations in their efforts to remove Buckthorn and other invasive species.
6	Community Gardens and Local Food Production	This is any piece of land gardened by a group of people, utilizing either individual or shared plots on private or public land. The land may produce fruit, vegetables, and/or ornamentals.	Provide an area for the community to come together and educate on another on the benefits of gardening organic and healthy food (less pesticide exposure), while also adding beauty and green and clean space where pavement may have been. Partner with nonprofits, businesses and schools for green workforce training.
7	Sustainable Landscaping	Sustainable landscapes are responsive to the environment, regenerative, and can actively contribute to the development of healthy communities. They sequester carbon, clear the air and water, increase energy efficiency, restore habitats, and create value through significant economic social and environmental benefits. Composting may help conserve existing natural areas and restore available turf areas to provide habitat, promote biodiversity, decrease flooding, and control erosion. Fewer lawns would decrease toxic rainfall runoff and there would be less noise polluting lawnmowers.	Create a pesticide protocol to encourage sustainable practices such as organic fertilizers, compost tea, 3-inch mow height, proper signage, and proper watering schedules. Encourage residents to use native plantings and ensure the Municipal Code allows plants 10-inches or taller. Encourage citizens to leave undergrowth in wooded areas to provide shelter/protection for small animals and birds. Partner with other local governments to add more native trees in certain areas to produce healthier and cooler air.
8	Bring-Your-Own-Bag Initiative	Reduce the reliance on plastic bags from retailers.	Create a campaign pledge for local businesses to sign, phasing out the use of plastic bags and transition to reusable bags.
9	Light Pollution	The inappropriate or excessive use of artificial light that can have serious environmental consequences for humans, wildlife, and our climate. This light is wasted by spilling into the sky, rather than focusing it on to actual objects and areas.	Recommend a light pollution Zoning regulation to the PCZBA. Restrict lighting on residential, Municipal, and commercial buildings to approved, shielded, and properly mounted pieces to reduce light pollution and glare while attractively illuminating areas.
10	Walkability and Pedestrian/Bicycle Pathways	Encouraging citizens to bike to work or ride share as well as partnering with other organizations to provide public transportation. Commit to reducing pollution and development impacts from single occupancy vehicle use.	Provide walkable and inviting areas and pathways, and green spaces within the Village. Explore future development and improvement of sustainable practices and material in bike paths and sidewalks. Incorporate IDOT complete Streets Initiatives into projects. Offer more buses for transportation around town (partnering with Shields Township and surrounding communities). Provide adequate bicycle storage at facilities, parks, downtown and where practical.
11	Water Conservation Efforts and Education	Cut back on water use by following water conservation practices such as watering lawns in the early morning/late evening and less frequently, taking shorter showers, and the use of rain barrels or cisterns.	Explore ways to track water usage and include in water bills. Create a benchmark system to compare residential usage with neighbors. Where functional, install low-flow fixtures in Village facilities and encourage their use in commercial and residential construction. Promote educational awareness on the dangers associated with pesticides, fertilizers, etc. Provide residents with drop off sites to dispose of household chemicals properly. Join ongoing efforts with other organzaitons in being stewards of Lake Michigan.

**Lake Bluff Draft Beekeeping Pilot Program Outline**

- 1.) **Locations:** All residents in the following Village Zoning districts are permitted to keep domestic honeybees and hives on their property: C-E; E-1; E-2; R-1; R-2; R-3; R-4; and R-6. Permission for districts not listed here residents can submit a request directly to the Village Board.
- 2.) The keeping of non-domestic bees is prohibited.
- 3.) **Notification:** Prior to establishing a hive, applicants must notify the Village by completing and submitting an application for beekeeping and proving proof they have registered with the Illinois Department of Agriculture. In addition, residents must submit written proof of notice to all adjacent property owners, in a form provided by the SEC (attached). Notification to adjacent property owners is not required for renewals by any applicant that previously complied with this notification requirement in receiving a prior valid beekeeping license from the Village, unless a new adjacent property owner has occupied residency since submission of the form to the Village (“**Adjacent Property Owner**” - All persons or entities that own real property that share a property line(s) with the beekeeping applicant’s property. Government owned property and/or utilities are not considered adjacent property owners).
- 4.) **Registration:** All beekeepers must register their hives with the Village of Lake Bluff and submit proof that they have registered their hives with the Illinois Department of Agriculture.
- 5.) **Hives:** All bees must be kept in inspectable type hives with removable combs, which must be kept in sound and usable condition. No more than one hive per residence shall be permitted. Hives shall only be permitted in a resident’s backyard. Hives must be a minimum of five (5) feet from any property line and must be kept a minimum of ten (10) feet from any sidewalk or publicly designated path, primary residence, and if possible, kept out of view from neighbors and the public way. Hives may not be located in the front yard of a residence. Hives must be placed in locations accessible for inspectors to safely access on a routine basis. The maximum number of hives that may be located on a property is three (3) hives, unless determined by the Village Board.
- 6.) **Fencing and hedges:** If the backyard of a residence does not have preexisting fencing, all hives must be enclosed by fencing or a hedge within no less than a 20x25 foot area with a secure gate, and signage warning of the presence of a bee hive on the property, and to act as a deterrent to accessibility from unauthorized person(s), children, or animals.  
**Flyway barrier:** The beekeeper shall maintain a flyway barrier at least six (6) feet in height consisting of a solid wall, fence, dense vegetation or combination thereof that is parallel to the property line and extends ten (10) feet beyond the colony in each direction so that all bees are forced to fly at an elevation of at least six (6) feet above ground level over the property lines.
- 7.) **Water:** Each beekeeper must ensure that a convenient source of water is available at all times to the bees so that the bees will not congregate at swimming pools or other water sources where they may cause human, bird, or domestic pet contact. The water shall be maintained so as not to become stagnant.
- 8.) **Queens:** In any instance in which a colony exhibits unusually aggressive characteristics by stinging or attempting to sting without due provocation, or exhibits an unusual disposition towards swarming, it must be the duty of the beekeeper to requeen the colony. Queens must be selected from stock bred for gentleness and non-swarming characteristics.
- 9.) **Maintenance:** It is the responsibility of the beekeeper to properly maintain and care for bees and the hives in a manner acceptable to beekeeping best practices.
- 10.) **Nuisance:** No person and/or property owner shall be allowed to violate Title 4, Chapter 1 “Nuisances” of the Lake Bluff Municipal Code. Failure to adhere to these rules constitutes a nuisance under the Lake Bluff Municipal Code.

**Lake Bluff Draft Backyard Chicken Pilot Program Outline**

- 1.) Housing: All residential chickens shall be kept within a pen, coop, building or other enclosure sufficient in size and strength to confine such animals in the owner's property. A permit shall be obtained from the Village of Lake Bluff ("Village") prior to the construction, addition, or modification of any pen, coop, building or other enclosure used for the purposes of housing chickens.
- 2.) Zoning: All residents in the following Village Zoning districts are permitted to keep residential chickens on their property: C-E; E-1; E-2; R-1; R-2; R-3; R-4; and R-6. Permission for districts not listed here residents can submit a request directly to the Village Board.
- 3.) Restrictions:
  - i. A maximum of six (6) residential chickens shall be permitted on any property. Roosters shall be prohibited.
  - ii. Residential chickens shall be kept in the rear yard (behind the home).
  - iii. No pen, coop, building or other enclosure used for the purpose of housing chickens shall be erected or maintained within any ten (10) feet of any occupied residence other than that of the owner.
  - iv. Every person maintaining a pen, coop, building, yard or enclosure for residential chickens shall keep such area clean and sanitary at all times. Any dirt or refuse resulting from the residential chickens shall be disposed in a clean and sanitary fashion.
  - v. All feed for residential chickens shall be kept in containers that are rodent-proof until put out for consumption by the residential chickens.
  - vi. Any pen, coop, or other structure used for the purpose of housing residential chickens that is not fully-enclosed shall be screened to a height of six (6) feet. Said screening shall be comprised of fences or walls six (6) feet in height, landscaping of at least seventy-five (75%) opacity, such as non-deciduous plantings, or equivalent screening and shall be located either along the perimeter of the lot where the pen, coop, building or other enclosure used for the purpose of housing residential chickens is located, or around the perimeter of the pen, coop, or enclosure itself.
  - vii. No person and/or property owner shall be allowed to violate Title 4, Chapter 1 "Nuisances" of the Lake Bluff Municipal Code. Failure to adhere to these rules constitutes a nuisance under the Lake Bluff Municipal Code.

# Illinois Department of Agriculture

## Bees & Apiaries

### APIARY INSPECTIONS

The Department currently has a full Apiary Inspection Team. If you need an inspection, please contact one of the Inspectors listed on this website or call Steve Chard at 217/782-6297 for assistance.

### [APIARY NEWS IN ILLINOIS COLONY COLLAPSE DISORDER](#)

#### REDUCING POTENTIAL BEE EXPOSURE TO PESTICIDES

The Illinois Department of Agriculture is working with many partners to reduce honeybee exposure to various pesticides (herbicides, insecticides, fungicides, etc.).

There have been some instances where honeybees have been exposed to these materials, at times with catastrophic impacts. In an effort to limit these exposures, the IDOA is hoping to increase communication between the pesticide user community and the state's beekeepers.



Pesticide applicators can gain contact and locational information related to Illinois' beekeepers as well various pesticide-sensitive crops. An Illinois-specific internet site has been constructed [Illinois DriftWatch™](#). The internet site includes two main portals, one for pesticide-sensitive crop producers (including beekeepers) and another for pesticide applicators. The producer portal allows producers to register the types and locations of their pesticide-sensitive crops so that they can be viewed by potential pesticide applicators. The pesticide applicator portal allows applicators to register their

service area which, in turn, will allow them to receive automatic notifications when pesticide-sensitive crop locations are added to the areas in which they work. The Department has added the locations of many apiaries registered with the Department to the database and is promoting the use of the internet site to pesticide applicators at our Pesticide Safety Education Program clinics being held throughout the state from December through May. We are also working with our marketing bureau to help promote the use of the program by pesticide-sensitive crop producers.

### **DESCRIPTION OF ILLINOIS BEES AND APIARIES PROGRAM**

The Illinois Bees and Apiaries Program is designed to assist beekeepers throughout Illinois with the management and protection of honeybee colonies. The domestic honeybee plays a vital role in today's society. Due to the extensive problems caused by various diseases and pests of the honeybee, many feral or wild honeybees have been eliminated, which has had a significant negative impact on the pollination of flowering plants. Honeybees pollinate many of the plants which produce the food consumed by humankind. Examples of plants pollinated by honeybees include almonds, apples, blueberries, cucumbers, melons, and pumpkins. A lack of feral honeybees over the last several years has greatly increased the need for managed honeybees to be used for the pollination of plants.

Under the Illinois Bees and Apiaries Act, the Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA) inspects honeybee colonies as a service to the beekeeping industry. The purpose of the inspections is to determine the general health of honeybee colonies. During the course of an inspection, IDOA Apiary Inspectors closely examine beehives to detect diseases and pests and provide advice on needed treatments. Inspections are provided free of charge to beekeepers around the state. The Act also requires beekeepers to register their colonies (one or more) with the IDOA. Registration is as simple as completing a brief one-page form and mailing it to the IDOA. A registration certificate (including a registration number) is provided to beekeepers who register with the IDOA. There is also no charge for registering honeybee colonies with the IDOA.

For information regarding the Bees and Apiaries Program, feel free to contact the Illinois Department of Agriculture at 217/782-6297.

# Best Management Practices for Beekeeping in Illinois

## Illinois State Beekeepers Association

www.ilsba.com

(March, 2013)

### INTRODUCTION

Beekeeping has become increasingly popular. Although generally docile, honeybees (*Apis mellifera*) can and may sting when they perceive they are being threatened (normally at their beehive). Responsible management is therefore necessary to avoid creating problems for neighbors, particularly in an urban setting.

Under the Illinois Bees and Apiaries Act, the Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDoA) inspects honeybee colonies as a service to the beekeeping industry. The purpose of the inspections is to determine the general health of honeybee colonies. During the course of an inspection, IDoA Apiary Inspectors closely examine beehives to detect diseases and pests and to provide advice on needed treatments. Inspections are provided free of charge to beekeepers around the state. To access more information concerning the Illinois Bees and Apiary Program, go to [www.agr.state.il.us/programs/bees/index.html](http://www.agr.state.il.us/programs/bees/index.html)

The Act also **requires** beekeepers to register their colonies with the IDoA. Registration is as simple as completing a brief one-page form and mailing it to the Illinois Department of Agriculture, State Fairgrounds, P.O. Box 19281, Springfield, IL 62794-9281. A registration certificate is provided to beekeepers who register with the IDoA. There is also no charge for registering honeybee colonies with the IDoA. To download a registration form, go to [www.agr.state.il.us/programs/bees/beekeep.pdf](http://www.agr.state.il.us/programs/bees/beekeep.pdf)

### GENERAL BEST PRACTICES

#### Education

The first and most critical step in responsible beekeeping is education. All beekeepers should have a solid understanding of honeybee biology and basic beekeeping methods. The Illinois State Beekeepers Association (ISBA) also encourages all beekeepers to join the ISBA as well as a local association. We strongly suggest that new beekeepers take a beginning beekeeping course and read several different beekeeping guides. Many local associations offer honeybee classes and/or will mentor beekeepers. Beekeepers should stay informed of recommended changes in beekeeping practices, threats to honeybee health and government regulations.

#### Colony Temperament /Queens

While generally docile, honeybees can sting. A colony's temperament is determined by its queen's characteristics. Any colony exhibiting unusually defensive behavior (stinging or attempting to sting without provocation) or an excessive swarming tendency should be requeened as soon as possible.

Beekeepers should evaluate their queens on a regular basis for performance and hive gentleness. Only queens of European origin should be used. Queens should only be obtained from the most reliable sources. Local sources, where available, are preferred in order to reduce the chances of introducing Africanized honeybees and to ensure that the queen is well suited to the climate.

# Best Management Practices for Beekeeping in Illinois

## *Illinois State Beekeepers Association*

[www.ilsba.com](http://www.ilsba.com)

(March, 2013)

### **Hive Placement**

Beekeepers should comply with all homeowner association and local ordinances and regulations pertaining to beekeeping. Correct placement of hives is a very important consideration for responsible beekeeping in urban and suburban settings. Hives must be placed in a quiet area of the lot and not directly against a neighboring property unless a solid fence or dense plant barrier of six feet or higher forms the property boundary. Hives should be kept as far away as possible from roads, sidewalks and rights of way. Flight paths into the hive should remain within the owner's lot. Barriers, including solid fencing, hedges and shrubs more than six feet high may be used to redirect the bees' flight pattern.

### **Considerate Hive Management**

Before setting up your hives it is a good idea to inform your neighbors where you intend to place the hives. Respond to and discuss their concerns; an informed neighbor is more likely to be an understanding neighbor. Beekeepers are encouraged to post signs to alert neighbors and passersby to the presence of their hives; generally it is best to place such signs so that they are only in view when the public would otherwise be able to view the hives

Beekeepers should take into account that weather conditions influence bee behavior and plan to work bees when conditions are favorable. They should make sure that neighbors are not outdoors when they open hives and should perform hive manipulations as quickly as possible with minimum disturbance to the bees. Extended hive manipulations, particularly when removing honey, should be carefully planned to accommodate neighbors' activities. A smoker should be used when working bees. Hive entrances should be smoked before mowing or trimming in the hive area. Clippings and exhaust should be directed away from hive entrances.

### **Provision of water**

Beekeepers should provide water for their bees before locating them in their yard. Bees prefer a sunny place with surface moisture, for example wet sand or gravel or the edge of a birdbath. If you establish such water sources, your bees will become habituated to them and will be less likely to visit swimming pools or hot tubs. Remember that in very hot weather, bees use a large amount of water to maintain temperature and humidity within the hive.

### **Swarming**

While swarming is natural honeybee behavior, it is one that should be prevented or minimized, especially in urban and suburban settings. Two primary causes of swarming are congestion and poor ventilation in the hive. To avoid these conditions, beekeepers should consider:

- Brood chamber manipulation
- Colony division
- Addition of supers for brood rearing and honey storage
- Replacement of old or failing queens

These and other swarm management practices are explained in detail in most good beekeeping textbooks.

# Best Management Practices for Beekeeping in Illinois

## Illinois State Beekeepers Association

www.ilsba.com

(March, 2013)

When a swarm occurs, efforts should be made to collect the swarm. Swarms captured from locations where the origin of the bees may be questionable should be monitored frequently for abnormal defensiveness.

### Robbing Behavior

When nectar is scarce, honeybees may rob honey from other hives which makes them appear more defensive. Under such conditions, beekeepers should work hives for only short periods of time and only if really necessary. Exposed honey outdoors often encourages robbing. All empty hive equipment should be removed or securely sealed. Areas used for honey extraction should be bee-proofed to prevent robbing situations.

### Disease Control

There are a number of honeybee diseases and pests which cause concern for beekeepers. Some diseases, like American Foulbrood, are extremely contagious; beekeepers should be extremely cautious about mixing hive equipment and purchasing used equipment for this reason. It is incumbent on beekeepers to manage all disease and pests, including parasitic mites, to ensure colony health and honey quality.

### AFRICANIZED HONEYBEE

The Africanized honeybee ("AHB") has expanded its range from South America and arrived in the United States around 1990. Since that time, AHB have colonized in several southern states including Florida, Texas and California. It is not yet known whether ABH will be able to establish in cooler climates.

### Management to Avoid AHB Introduction and Establishment

The recommended techniques intended for maintenance of European stock include:

- Purchase queens, packaged bees, and nucleus colonies from reputable sources outside of Africanized honey bee (AHB) infested areas or localities adjacent to AHB infested areas. The current distribution in the U.S. can be seen at <http://ars.usda.gov/AHBmap>
- Bi-annual requeening of hives and requeening of swarms with certified European stock purchased from reliable sources (local when possible).
- Maintaining requeening records and purchase documentation
- Monitoring the behavior of the bees and replacing the queen immediately if the hive becomes difficult to manage

Any beekeeper who witnesses unusually defensive behavior should take the following steps:

- Contact the Illinois Department of Agriculture Apiary Inspector for your area [www.agr.state.il.us/programs/bees/inspectors.html](http://www.agr.state.il.us/programs/bees/inspectors.html) or the IDoA's Apiary Inspection Supervisor at 217/782-6297.
- Requeen immediately with certified European stock
- Monitor requeened hive for continued defensiveness

# **Best Management Practices for Beekeeping in Illinois**

## ***Illinois State Beekeepers Association***

**www.ilsba.com**

*(March, 2013)*

Treat all honey bees with respect. Treating all honey bees with respect is a fundamental pillar of beekeeping as honey bees are indispensable and important to the human food supply.

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### **DISCLAIMER**

This document is and always will be a work in progress, intended for regular update and revision. It offers guidelines for responsible beekeeping in the State of Illinois but is not intended to provide legal advice.