

## Kearsarge Beekeepers Association

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Happy New Year, everyone!*

*As we settle into the heart of a New Hampshire winter, our apiaries may be quiet under their blankets of snow, but there's still plenty happening—for both bees and beekeepers. January and February are a time of patience, preparation, and reflection, reminding us that good beekeeping is often about knowing when not to intervene.*

*For our bees, winter is all about survival and teamwork. Clustered tightly together, they rely on the care we gave them last season and the planning we do now. For us, this is the perfect time to check hive entrances to ensure they are free of drifting snow, and resist the temptation to peek inside on cold days. Sometimes the best help is simply letting them "bee".*

*These colder months are also a great opportunity to learn and connect. Our bee school is in full swing, and we have a wonderful turnout this year, but whether you're reading, attending meetings, planning or performing equipment repairs, or dreaming up improvements for the coming season, winter is when good ideas take root. Our club programs and conversations during this time are invaluable, and I encourage everyone—new and experienced beekeepers alike—to stay engaged and share what they're learning.*

*Before we know it, the days will grow longer, the maples will run, and the bees will begin to stir. Until then, thank you for being part of this community and for your continued dedication to beekeeping in New Hampshire. I look forward to another season of learning, supporting one another, and caring for our bees together.*

*Stay warm, enjoy the quiet of winter, and here's to a healthy and successful year ahead.*

*Bee well,  
Patrice*



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### NEXT MEETING

**MARCH 14TH @ 9:00 AM  
AT WARNER TOWN HALL**

**GUEST SPEAKER:  
DAVE PRIEBE**

**TOPIC: TROPILAEALAPS**

*Agenda to include:  
Committee Reports  
Old Business  
New Business*

You can read about Tropilaelaps Mites on the  
Honey Bee Health Coalition site:  
[Tropi-Full-Primer.pdf](#)

# JANUARY 2026 KBA MEETING NOTES

## Minutes for January KBA Business Meeting 1/10/2026

Warner Town Hall

Present: Diane Mancino, Robin Gray, Shreve Soule, Bob DeLuca, Mary Patterson, Mike Plunkett, Becky Grammer, Emily Girard, Marilyn Milne, Carol Currotto, Betsey McNaughton, Ken Foster, Laurel Bride, Ken Foster, Myra Gray, Gerald Patruodo, Kim Tuttle, Kim Cooper, John Chadwick, Matt Hoyt, Bam Fleury, G.?

Matt Hoyt called meeting to order 9:03 am

Motion to accept minutes: Shreve

Treasurer: \$6,373 balance

### Committee Reports

**Membership:** 23 paid members so far for 2026; 24 lifetime members

**Apiary:** Honey sales net \$680.00, sold \$1,500 honey, Formic Pro sales = \$554.00. Waiting on HOWs schedule for weather, planning to start in late March or early April with a dead out inspection. Looking for HOWs volunteers. Shreve will check 4 Langstroth hives and 1 top bar hive in late Jan/early Feb

**Speaker:** No report

**Bee School:** 31 registrations, some are family registrations. Mike and Bam donating packages for hive raffle; 2 full hives, 2 themed baskets. Checking on Wifi/AV etc., books are in. Committee will meet 1/14; first school date is 1/24. Betsey needs volunteers for snacks; will have coffee/tea like last year. Discussion on logos for school shirts; should we solicit logo art for a vote?

**Old Business** None

### **New Business**

Mike Plunkett bought Hillside Apiaries (9-5 Saturdays and by appt.) and started Beekeeping Unlimited; has beekeeping equipment, services, treatments, PPE, consignment, candles, will sell KBA members' wares.

Bam is going to Georgia (Italian/Carniolan) and Mississippi (Russian) for packages in April

**Officers appointed/reappointed:** Matt, Robin, Shreve, John  
Secretary role transitioning from Diane Mancino to Mary Patterson

Mike reminded everyone to consider joining a committee  
Bob has been chair of Bee School committee for three years and would like to hand it over to someone new. Marilyn is looking for a new newsletter chair who can put their own creative spin on it.

Apiary Committee will help Bee School committee 1/24

### **Upcoming state meetings:**

NHBA in March, Camp Carpenter, speaker on pesticides  
1/31, VBA winter meeting in Burlington includes a mini conference. Mike Plunkett has more info and will be there with Beekeepers' Relief Fund.

Upcoming NH House hearings: HB1086 and HB 1431 regarding neonicotinoid applications and labeling requirements; Shreve and Marilyn will look for updates.

Motion to adjourn: Betsey

Second: Carol

Adjourned 9:54 am

\*Notes prepared by Mary Patterson

### **State Legislation**

HB1086 - Prohibiting the sale of certain agricultural seeds treated with neonicotinoids. [NH HB1086 | 2026 | Regular Session | LegiScan](#)

HB1431 - Restricting the use of neonicotinoid pesticides. [NH HB1431 | 2026 | Regular Session | LegiScan](#)

# 2026 KBA BEE SCHOOL

The 2026 KBA Bee School is under way and runs from Jan 24 - February 21, 2026, at the Sugar River Valley Regional Technical Center, in Newport. There is a great turnout this year of new and returning students. A HUGE thank you to the Bee School Committee and the KBA members volunteering to share their knowledge of bee biology, equipment, management... everything the beginning beekeeper would like to know... and more!



## KBA COMITTEES

### Apiary Committee

**KBA Bee School Committee**  
Currently seeking a chairperson.

### Speaker Committee

### KBA Scholarship Committee

### Education/Outreach Committee

### Nomination Committee

**Newsletter**  
Currently seeking a creator

If you are interested in participating on a committee, email KBA at [kbanhclub@gmail.com](mailto:kbanhclub@gmail.com) for more information.



## SUPPORTING THE NH HONEY BEE TOGETHER

The NHBA Spring Meeting at Camp Carpenter will be on **3/21/26**. Guest speaker, Scott McArt, will give the following two talks that day:

- Pesticide Risk to Bees: What We Need to Know and What We Need to Know Better
- Tales from the Science: Industry Policy Interface on Neonicotinoid Insecticides

For more information and to register for the event visit: [2026 NHBA Spring Meeting and Raffle](#) ☐ [New Hampshire Beekeepers Association](#)

# STAY UP TO DATE ON UPCOMING KBA EVENTS

## Events - Kearsarge Beekeepers Association

March 14, 2026 - Guest Speaker Dave Priebe to follow the March regular meeting, discussing Tropilaelaps.  
Meeting to be held at the Warner Town Hall, starting at 9:00 AM.

Visit [kbanh.org](http://kbanh.org) and the KBA Facebook page, KBA-NH, for updates on HOWs and other KBA events.  
The KBA Apiary is located at the Ramspott Farm, 223 North Road, Sunapee, NH.

## 2026 KBA MEMBERSHIPS AND DUES

A friendly reminder for everyone to pay their dues, by Jan 1. Membership dues come with great benefits including: Access to Hands On Workshops (HOWs), KBA Newsletters (emailed and on website), Mentors, and access to the KBA Facebook members only page, just to name a few!

More info can be found on the [kbanh.org](http://kbanh.org) website. Download the form and send it in, or join / renew online right from our website!

If sending in, make checks payable to KBA or Kearsarge Beekeepers Association.  
Mail to: KBA, PO Box 243, Warner, NH 03278



Dues are:  
\$20 for individual  
\$175 Individual lifetime  
\$250 Family lifetime

**The Beekeepers Relief Fund** offers prompt support to beekeepers during critical events such as emergencies, illnesses, crises that necessitate specialized beekeeping skills, equipment replacement, or financial assistance. We can help Beekeepers with:

- Hive Management and Assessment
- Beekeeping Equipment and Supplies
- Financial Assistance



To find out more about the Beekeepers Relief Fund, for assistance, or to donate, please visit:  
[www.beekeepersrelieffund.org](http://www.beekeepersrelieffund.org).

## Kearsarge Beekeepers Association

President: Patrice Fredette  
Vice President: Matt Hoyt  
Treasurer: Robin Gray  
Secretary: Mary Patterson  
Newsletter: Marilyn Milne  
Website: Joey Byrnes

Please send information for the newsletter to: [kbanhclub@gmail.com](mailto:kbanhclub@gmail.com)  
Join our Facebook page at: KBA-NH (private group)  
[kbanh.org](http://kbanh.org)

