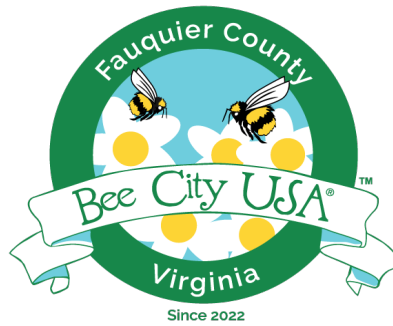


We Need Bees

Committee

Gary Rzepecki, Chairman
Bert Harris, Co-Chairman
October Greenfield
Heather McDaniel-Neff
Mary Leigh McDaniel
Kelsi Steele
Marcia Marsh
Aimee O'Grady
Reneé Kitt



**WE NEED BEES COMMITTEE
March 3, 2026
1:00 P.M – 2:00 P.M REGULAR MEETING
Virtual Meeting**

AGENDA

I. Call to Order

II. Approval of Agenda

III. Comments from Citizens

IV. Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of February 3, 2026 meeting minutes

V. Publicity and Information

- a. Plan 2026 Monthly Meeting Objectives

- March 3: Discuss Update for Main Street Planters

- April 7: Field Trip to Monroe Park- 14421 Gold Dust Parkway, Goldvein, VA

- May 5: Field Trip to G. Thompson Wildlife Management Area- 3294 Leeds Manor Rd, Markham,VA

- September 1:

- October 6: Field Trip to Clifton Institute- 6712 Blantyre Rd, Warrenton, VA 20187

- November 10:

- b. School Outreach for Spring 2026

VI. Action item

- a. Bee City USA Renewal-Completed (Justine Ceja)

VII. Potential Project

- a. Little Seed Library Update (Completed)

- b. Monroe Park Grass Conversion Project (in-progress)

VIII. Members RoundTable

IX. Review/Summary- Assignments/Due Dates-Who Does What and by When

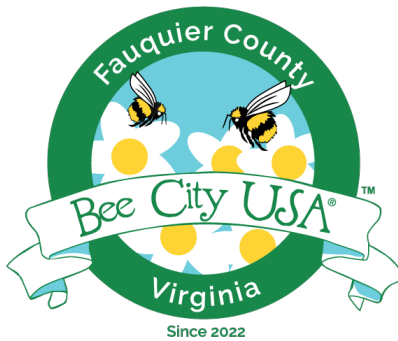
- a. School Outreach (Heather McDaniel-Neff)

X. Adjourn

XI. Next Meeting: March 3, 2026

We Need Bees Committee

Gary Rzepecki, Chairman
Bert Harris, Co-Chairman
Heather McDaniel-Neff
Mary Leigh McDaniel
Aimee O'Grady
October Greenfield
Kelsi Steele
Marcia Marsh
Reneé Kitt



WE NEED BEES COMMITTEE
February 3, 2026
1:00 P.M – 2:00 P.M REGULAR MEETING
320 Hospital Dr, Warrenton, VA, 20186
Minutes

Members Present

Gary Rzepecki, Chairman
October Greenfield
Marcia Marsh
Kelsi Steele
Reneé Kitt

Members Absent

Heather McDaniel-Neff
Aimee O'Grady
Mary Leigh McDaniel
Bert Harris

Parks and Recreation Staff

Justine Ceja, Public Information Specialist

I. Call to Order

Gary Rzepecki called the meeting to order at 1:03 P.M.

II. Approval of Agenda

Marcia Marsh motioned to approve the agenda as presented, October Greenfield seconded, as such, it passed unanimously.

III. Comments from Citizens

None

IV. Consent Agenda

Reneé Kitt motioned to approve the January 6, 2026 meeting minutes, Marcia Marsh seconded, as such it passed unanimously.

V. Publicity and Information

a. Discuss and Plan Native Plant Month for April

-Marcia Marsh shared several ideas for how the We Need Bees Committee could contribute to Native Plant Month, including participating in farmers markets, partnering with local schools, and improving the materials available on the We Need Bees webpage.

Gary Rzepecki suggested that the committee could also promote the April meeting's field trip to Monroe Park as a way to highlight progress on the ongoing conversion project.

Building on this, Ms. Marsh proposed adding locations of native plant demonstration locations and member-organization events to the webpage. She also suggested creating a promotional activity where visitors who stop at all native plant locations and provide photo proof receive a small prize. Mr. Rzepecki mentioned that there are leftover T-shirts that could be used for this purpose.

Reneé Kitt shared a related idea inspired by her walks through Old Town Warrenton, converting the existing street planters from annuals to native plants. She noted that more research is needed to determine who manages and waters the planters. She suggested adding QR codes or signage to identify the native plants and encourage residents to try similar plantings at home. These planters could be included on a map of native plant demonstrations, showing a range from small planter concepts to full gardens like PEC's. Ms. Kitt offered to inventory planter locations, research suitable plants, create a mock-up sign and action plan. Ms. Marsh suggested the name "The Native Plant Crawl."

October Greenfield expressed enthusiasm for these ideas and said they reminded her of Junior Ranger programs, suggesting that participants could earn a certificate. Ms. Marsh proposed the name "Pollinator Patrol."

Ms. Greenfield added that small grant funding might be available through the PATH Foundation's "Make It Happen" \$2,500 grant, which could be a good fit since the project encourages outdoor learning for children.

Mr. Rzepecki noted that if working with Warrenton Main Street proves difficult, the Warrenton Branch Greenway could serve as a strong alternative. Planters could be placed near the StoryWalks, and some grassy areas could potentially be converted into native wildflower gardens.

Ms. Marsh introduced another idea involving bee nesting boxes, but after a brief discussion, the group agreed not to pursue it due to concerns about spreading bee diseases.

VI. Action Item

-Mr. Rzepecki assigned two action items for the coming month. The first is to complete the IPM Plan in preparation for the Bee City USA renewal process, which officially opened on February 1. The second is to continue developing the native planter initiative on Main Street, ensuring that research, coordination, and planning move forward so the project can be implemented effectively.

-Justine Ceja provided a brief reminder for all data to be submitted for the Bee City Renewal by Friday, Feb 6th.

VII. Potential Project

a. Little Seed Library (In Progress)

-Mr. Rzepecki reported that the Little Seed Library project is nearing completion. Parks and Recreation funded three Little Seed Libraries, which were constructed by the maintenance team, and Justine Ceja designed and applied the stickers for the library doors. Clifton Institute donated seeds this week and Justine will reach out to Heather McDaniel-Neff and Mary Leigh McDaniel to see if they will be willing to volunteer to fill the packets again.

b. Grass Conversion Project at Monroe Park (In Progress)

-Mr. Rzepecki shared that the grass conversion project continues to come along nicely, once the snow begins to melt, wood chips will be placed for a trail. Additionally, Kadira from Clifton Institute reviewed the seed list that will be planted and provided a few changes, hopefully they will be planted before the April 7th field trip.

VIII. Members Roundtable

- a. JMSWCD has several upcoming education events with the schools, but only one public outreach event on February 19th. The Feb 19 event is the one that anyone interested in attending should reach out to Tricia Hailey to RSVP. Gary Rzepecki then asked about the possibility of available concepts or designs of a working farm, leading to a brief discussion about a potential outdoor adventure style property near the southern sports complex. The concept on the table includes elements such as areas for archery, bike pump tracks, and a functioning demonstration farm component.

IX. Review/Summary- Assignments/Due Dates-Who Does What and by When

- a. IMP Plan and Bee City Renewal- Justine Ceja
b. Native Plant Planter Action Plan- Renee Kitt
c. Seed Packets- Heather McDaniel-Neff and Mary Leigh McDaniel

X. Adjourn

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:54 P.M.

XI. Next Meeting: March 3, 2026