**Treasurer's Report:** Cheryl Housden reported that we are in budget

**New Business:**
Ken Olmstead addressed the rules of the swarm email list, and reported that the rules on the SOBA website have been updated.

**Let's Talk Bees**
The meeting attendees started with a hive demonstration performed by Risa Halpin, Harvey Young, and Travis Owen. The demonstration began with inspections to determine the presence of queens in all three SOBA hives, two of which were splits from the sole surviving SOBA hive (the rest perished in winter or the fall of 2018, much to our dismay!!!) One of the splits had the original queen, and received a super as they were running out of room to grow and thus at risk of swarming. The other split had an agile virgin queen running around, so the inspection was very brief. The third colony seemed to be suspiciously queenless and may need a queen introduced soon. All three were treated for varroa mites with a formic acid treatment, considered to be one of the “natural” treatments due to formic acid being an organic acid found in nature. Formic acid is also approved for use while honey supers are on since it does not contaminate the honey.

Once the meeting moved into the building, Risa Halpin and Andrew Watson talked about various methods of making splits, AKA nucleus colonies or artificial swarms. Andrew and Risa brought hive components to demonstrate their methods. Andrew also brought a modified hive-top feeder which doubles as a bottom board. Risa demonstrated a 2-way nuc box, a modified deep hive body with a slot for a division board to start two nucleus colonies in a single box until queens are established. This method is often used by queen breeders since the success of raising queens from cells is not as good as introducing caged queens. Thus, if a queen in one side of a 2-way nuc dies, the division board can be removed and the two nucs can be combined.

Andrew discussed his methods of supering for honey production. He described the benefits of a “ladder” frame of young larvae being placed in a honey super to entice the bees to occupy the super. He suggests using a queen excluder under honey supers, though many beekeepers forego the use of a queen excluder. With the queen excluder in place, the bees tend to build queen cells on the frame of young larvae placed above the excluder. Andrew explained how he makes sure to destroy all of the queen cells they produce though sometimes he reserves a single queen cell as insurance in case the primary queen dies or swarms.

Meeting adjourned at around 9:30 pm