



**Whatcom County Horticultural
Pest and Disease Board**
1000 N Forest St
Suite 201
Bellingham, WA 98225

Regular Meeting

Whatcom County Horticultural Pest and Disease Board
Monday, August 3, 2020 1:00pm

Remote electronic meeting (via Zoom)

MINUTES

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order

Roll Call and Determination of Quorum

Determination of Quorum by Allen Brown (chair)

- Andrew Taylor
- Allen Brown
- Chris Benedict
- Bret Pehl
- Kay Oakley

Quorum achieved

Public Comment

No public comment was made

Approval of 8/3/2020 Meeting Minutes

Bret Pehl motioned to approve 8/3/2020 meeting minutes

- Kay Oakley Seconded
- All in favor

8/3/2020 Meeting Minutes approved

Old Business

Abandoned raspberry planting at Pole Rd and Mecklum Rd Update

Chris Benedict gave this update: He contacted the landowner 3 days after sending the letter which the board approved following the 8/3/2020 meeting. The landowner confirmed receipt of the letter and their continued interest in removing the planting (in line with the Board's letter). The landowner requested advice on removing support wire from the field, but does not appear to have followed up to get that advice, and the board expressed concern about their ability to remove the planting by the October 5th deadline set in the Board's letter. Kay Oakley asked if an extension would be possible and the board agreed that if the landowner appeared to be in good faith with removal at that point an extension could be considered.

Kay Oakley motioned to set a meeting for Wednesday, October 7 to discuss extending the deadline for the landowner if necessary.

Bret Pehl seconded the motion

All in favor, motion approved

Asian Giant Hornet Update

Chris Benedict shared that 2 new trappers were hired by the WSDA but otherwise no new information/events have occurred (no additional individuals have been trapped/found). WSU and WSDA have put in a grant application to assess a beehive exclusion device commonly used in Japan (a possible tool to deal with the threat to domestic honey bee hives).

Kay Oakley shared that she has continued to get quite a few calls from concerned/interested citizens

New Business

Whatcom County Horticultural Pest Board Outreach possibilities

Kay Oakley shared that the WSDA is tightening restrictions related to seed potato isolation and expressed interest in using the Board to publicize the changes.

Allen Brown shared concern about un-managed apple trees, and a possible increase in abandoned blueberry fields, as well as the differences in management between juicing and other end-products that might allow increased SWD pressure. The board could possibly focus on further education related to these issues

Chris Benedict expressed concern about landowners having little knowledge of the Board's jurisdiction. Also reiterated the lack of funding from the County limiting the Board's ability to take action.

2021 Meeting Schedule

Proposed meeting dates:

- Tuesday, February 9, 1:00pm
- Tuesday, May 11, 1:00pm
- Tuesday, September 14, 1:00pm
- Tuesday, November 9, 1:00pm

Adjourn

Kay Oakley motions to adjourn

Andrew Taylor seconded the motion

All in favor

Meeting Adjourned