



# Harrisonburg City Council

# Taking a stand for honey bees

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27 OCT 2020



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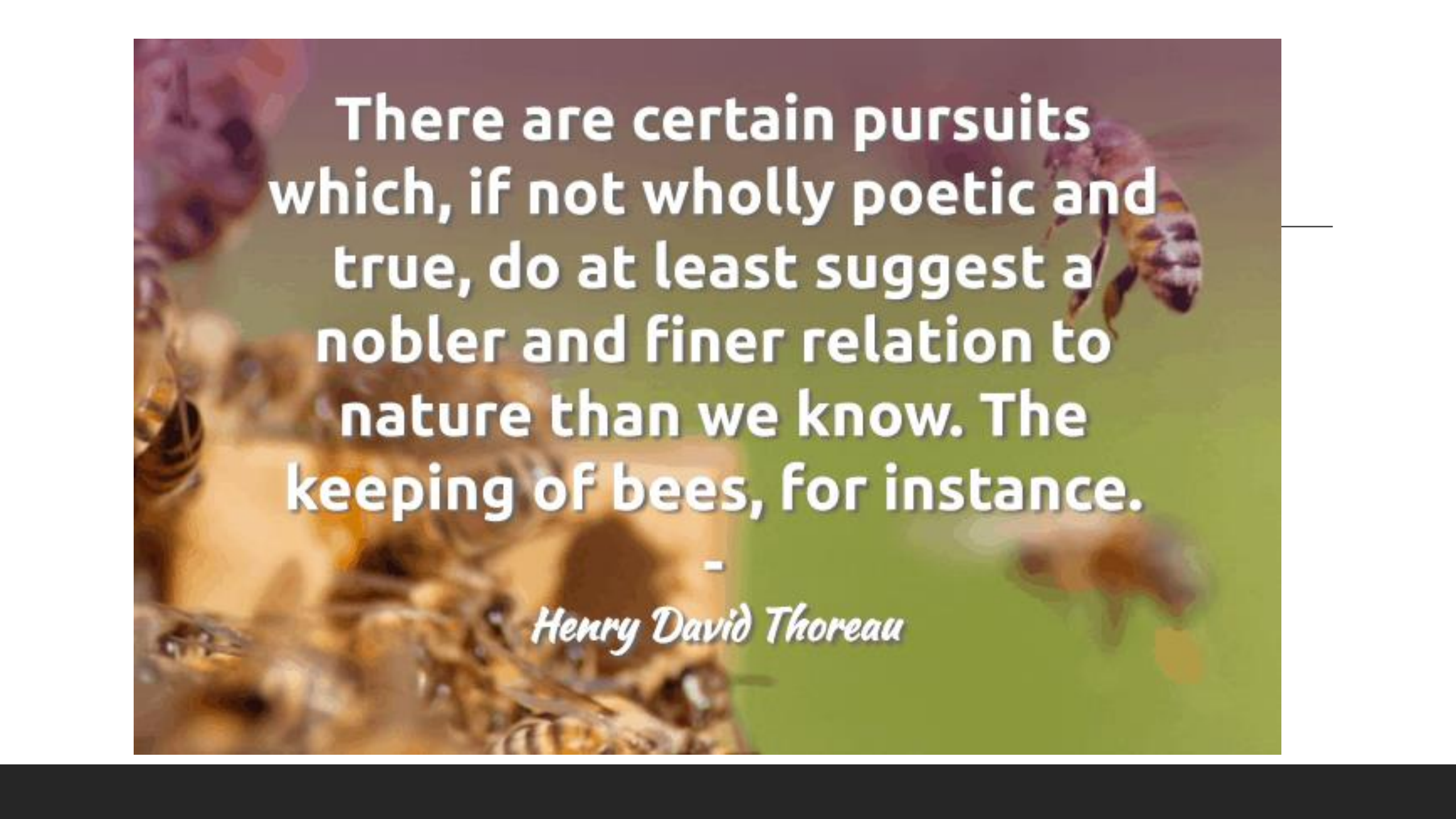
# Definition of Fear:

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The absence of knowledge !







There are certain pursuits  
which, if not wholly poetic and  
true, do at least suggest a  
nobler and finer relation to  
nature than we know. The  
keeping of bees, for instance.

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*Henry David Thoreau*

# How do we know they are here?

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[Swarm showing up !](#)



# In city limits: 2020...

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18 swarms caught in traps

3 removals from structures / trees

Several hives in buildings left in building at owners request once identified

Managed hives known (other bee keepers) at 4 locations (7 if you include mine)

Story of bee keeping done by WHSV tv

Work with JMU: two professors and their students (3<sup>rd</sup> year in a row in 2021)

# In city limits: prior years...

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27 swarms caught in traps

9 removals from structures / trees

Several hives in buildings left in building at owners request once identified

Removal from tree at Ralph Sampson Park at request of City of Harrisonburg

Removal from ceiling of Harrison Hall at request of James Madison University

# Why take a stance at all?

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Honey bees are thriving already within Harrisonburg city limits and have for centuries

Citizens already know they are essential to life....

...however, most do not know the differences between honey bees and “bees”, specifically Yellow Jackets, which are not even bees!

Our city has already been promoting being a Pollinator Friendly community !

Hundreds of cities across America allow and even promote keeping bees in urban environments

Great local resources: Shenandoah Valley Beekeepers Association, Bee City USA, other communities with programs...Lynchburg, Charlottesville, Fredericksburg, Washington, D.C. etc



# What will the neighbors think?

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All immediate neighbors to my hives know I have bees and are willing to let their children (age 1 year to 12 years) play within 20 feet of them.

The children love the honey bees and know all about them

Neighbors are willing to stand before council to verify these statements and readily support bee keeping within city limits

Philadelphia, PA has a population 1.584 million and allows urban bee keeping. That stated, our son now keeps a hive with his 3 roommates in the heart of the city and is part of the Philadelphia Beekeepers Guild.

# Recommendations

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Embrace the fact they have been here hundreds of years and are part of the community

Appoint a committee to flesh-out what it means to “keep honey bees” within city limits and set standards

Membership in SVBA

Educational training

Inspection (there are “Keepers” and “Have-rs”) Not all people with bee hives are bee keepers!

Create a 24 hr “Hot-line” for questions, or appoint a person that qualified to address citizen concerns

Questions ????

# Thank you for your time and consideration

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