

Merrimack Agricultural Commission

Minutes for February 13, 2013

John Lastowka, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Present were John, Bob McCabe, Cindy Warhola, Bess Parks, and Eber Currier.

First order of business was discussion about the Farmer's Market. John had talked to the town Manager, Eileen Cabanel, and she said Public Works employees would put out the safety cones and signs on Wednesdays to mark the location of the Farmers Market in the afternoon. They will place the safety traffic cones and two signs before the Farmers Market Starts. Cindy Warhola made a motion to set the hours of operation of the Farmers Market on Wednesdays from 3:00PM to 6:00PM. Bess Parks seconded and the vote was 5-0-0. Whoever is there to close up the Market, they can put the cones in their vehicle and deliver them to the Highway barn the next morning and they will store them for us to be used the next week.

Advertising for the Farmer's Market: Loretta Jackson will have an article in the Telegraph closer to the opening day of the Market this year. An add will mention the opening of the Farmers Market in the Weekly Market Bulletin so any new vendors will have access to our Market information. Cindy said the schools would hand out information about the Market. The Town of Merrimack will also do a press release with information on the Farmers Market. The Merrimack Chamber of Commerce has the Merrimack Farmers Market on their web site and that it will be opening in June. The Chamber has a "Lunch and Learn" meeting the second Wednesday of the month from 11:30 to 12:30. John Lastowka and Bob McCabe will be speakers at one of these meetings, to keep these members informed of the progress of the Agricultural Commission. This will help promote the positive outlook from the Town of Merrimack to local farmers. About Advertising, attending vendors say if it is going to raise the cost per vendor setup, they feel it is not worth paying extra for advertising. They feel the customers come when they know the fresh food is in anyway. We will send out mailings to vendors though as to the location, time, rules, and fees. It will be \$75.00 for the whole season, \$40.00 for the half season, or \$5.00 for one time only. Bob McCabe moved to have John Lastowka mail out the letters. Bess Parks seconded. Vote was 5-0-0.

Bob McCabe is working on the trifold for the Community Garden. He is mailing out information to 55 people who are previous gardeners or who would like to become new ones. There will be water for use on the plots and a message board for people to use. Naticook Camp has the garden covered for insurance. We hope that the Boy or Girl Scouts will want to work on a free plot and even set up a small booth at the Market to sell their

produce. The Merrimack Middle School asked John how to make raised beds so sounds like there might be some interest.

Minutes of January 9, 2013 were read and accepted with a change. Cindy moved to accept, Bess seconded. Vote was 4-1-0. Eber abstained, as he was not here for that meeting. Minutes for January 18, 2013 were read and accepted. Bob moved to accept and Cindy seconded. Vote was 4-1-0. Eber abstained, as he was not here for that meeting.

Comments from the public: three guests introduced themselves. Two of them came because of John Lastowka speaking at the Historical Society, Peter LaFauci and Muriel Buss. Heather Gartner, from Willow Pond Nursery also spoke about her interest in being a member of the Merrimack Agricultural Commission. Heather has great computer skills and is willing to help the commission in that respect. Peter asked if it would be all right if his son posted information on his bulletin board at work about the Farmer's Market.

Comments from Commissioners: Eber had a call from Don Miner, who has a farming operation going on 80 Peaslee Road. He would like to come to next meeting to talk about his plans. RSA 79:F should have information that he would need to read.

Bob McCabe moved to adjourn and Cindy Warhola seconded. Vote was 5-0-0. Adjourned at 8:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Trudy Currier, Acting Secretary