

Approved: June 12, 2013

## **Merrimack Agricultural Commission**

**May 8, 2013**

### **Approved Minutes**

Meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m. by Chairman John Lastowka. Present were Cindy Warhola, Bob McCabe, Eber Currier, and Bess Parks.

John Lastowka reported on the Farmer's Market. Letters have been sent out to all of the previous vendors and new ones who have expressed an interest. Several have signed up already and some will be doing so after they receive insurance papers. Eber brought in a copy of an e-mail that he received from the N.H. Farm Bureau to fill in to get a free listing for your fruits and produce in some of their mailings and web site. John will e-mail the info to the vendors, in case they did not get their own e-mail.

Bess Parks gave a treasurer's report ad there was no change from last month. \$2,316 for the Farmer's Market and \$1,460 for the Community Garden. Tammy and Bess need to keep in touch by e-mail so Bess can get the reports in on time for the meetings.

Bob McCabe reported on the Community Garden. He has rototilled it twice. It officially opened on May 1<sup>st</sup>, water was turned on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. There was a large demand for plots and 75 have been sold so far. The garden should be filled up soon. He gave two lots to Easter Seals and one to the Big Pumpkin man. He is also going to put up a bulletin board for notices soon. Our intention is to get a get a compost pile going soon. There are tri-folds with information available at the Parks and Recreation Dept., the Town Office and the Library.

Cindy Warhola said Becky at the General Government Office would draft a press release to the Telegraph, the Union Leader, and the Merrimack Journal in early June. John will see if the press releases could go out every Wednesday.

Heather Gartner came forward with many ideas for drawing more customers and vendors to the Farmer's Market on Wednesdays from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. she has many talents and brings us great ideas and she has the training and willingness to help us bring them to fruition. She would still use our logo and implement other ideas as economically as she can. Cindy moved to give Heather up to \$200.00 for supplies such as ink, paper, and cost of printing. Bob seconded. Vote was 5-0-0. An invoice to Paul Micali will result in him making out a check for receipts given to him for supplies. John will take him a copy of these minutes enabling him to do this.

Does the Agricultural Commission want to put a float in the 4th of July Parade? Answer must be in by end of this month. No one has the time to commit to this but perhaps we could put some literature on someone else's booth.

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John sent a letter to Governor Hassan recommending that she re-appoint Lorraine Merrill to a new term as Secretary of Agriculture and the Governor sent a letter back to him saying she had recommended that on May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013. Lorraine is a dairy Farmer and she was the first to initiate people forming their local Agricultural Commissions in the state. And then Lorraine sent John an e-mail thanking him for doing that.

Allen Lindahl was not present at the meeting tonight as he is in Georgia picking up new bees. His term expires on June 30<sup>th</sup>. We certainly hope he will find the time to join again.

John and Bob are going to show the town employees where to place the orange cones and signs on Wednesday afternoons before they leave work and someone of the Commissioners will pick them up and deliver them to the town garage next morning.

Minutes of March 13, 2013 were read and accepted with a couple of changes. Cindy moved to accept and Bob seconded. Vote was 5-0-0.

Next meeting will be held on June 12, 2013. That same day John and Bob will be attending a luncheon arranged by the Chamber of Commerce at the Home Health, and Hospice building concerning the Emerald Ash Borer.

John had information from the Hillsborough County Extension about the SWD fruit fly. They have worked up a spray that will keep it at bay for up to 5 or 6 days. The Eastern corn borers traps are out right now.

Cindy moved to adjourn. Bess seconded. Vote was 5-0-0. Adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Trudy Currier (acting secretary)