

Merrimack Agricultural Commission
Minutes
April 9, 2014

Chairman Bob McCabe called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. Present were Cindy Warhola, Bob McCabe, Eber Currier, and Bess Parks.

- a) **Farmer's Market update:** Only 6 out of 100 responses from vendors so far. Cindy Warhola moved to advertise in the Union Leader for a market manager. Bess Parks seconded. Vote was 4-0-0. \$25.00 should pay for it. No response from the Weekly Market Bulletin for a Merrimack Farmer's Market Manager yet. The ad will be run again in April.
- b) **Community Garden update:** There were about 30 people present at the March 11, 2014 training session at the library. More information can be obtained at the Town Hall, from Bob McCabe, or any of the Ag Commissioners. Bob is sending soil samples to the state for soil testing. It is a little too wet right now to do any rototilling.
- c) **Educational classes:** Bob gave a list of several of the training meetings taking place in April and May. All of these informational sessions can be found on the University of New Hampshire web site.
- d) **Bug alert:** Still keeping alert for any signs of the Asian Longhorn Beetles and the Emerald Ash Borer.
- e) **Membership Drive:** Volunteers are still needed to share their talents and visions with the Agricultural Commission.
- f) **4-H club:** Bob McCabe will be sending a letter to Paul Micali concerning our donation to the local 4-H groups.
- g) **Treasurer's report.** No new figures in this month.
- h) Review of March 12, 2014 minutes. Cindy Warhola moved to accept with changes, Bess Parks seconded. Vote was 4-0-0.

Commissioner's comments: Bob thinks he can have the Community Garden ready to be planted by May 11, 2014. He would like a description of what the Agriculture Commission does printed with these minutes also so that he can develop the annual report for 2014.

Cindy moved to adjourn, Bess seconded. Vote was 4-0-0. Adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Trudy Currier (acting secretary)

Mission and Purpose for an Agricultural Commission in Merrimack

To support, promote and encourage Farming and Agriculture activities in Merrimack as defined by RSA 21:34a.

To be an informational resource to those engaged in agricultural activities and those desiring to engage in agriculture.

To provide and help disseminate information on agriculture in Merrimack, including an inventory of agricultural activities.

Promote farmland protection activities within Merrimack.

To provide advocacy for agricultural activities.

Other activities to be defined by the commission in support of its mission.

The Agricultural Commission is advisory only with no regulatory authority as defined in RSA 674:44.

The commission shall be established in accordance with RSA 673:4-b by vote of the town council and its members shall be appointed in accordance with the same.

The commission shall be established with seven members and 5 alternates. Of the seven members one shall be designed as Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary/Treasurer.

The Commission once established by the town council shall recommend new members and officers to the town council when needed. The town council shall have sole authority to make all appointments.

All appointments shall be for one to three year terms.