

MERRIMACK AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION
Approved MINUTES
APRIL 11, 2012

Chairman John Lastowka called the meeting to order at 7:02 P.M. Present were: Allen Lindahl, Karen Swenson, Cindy Warhola, vice-chair Bob McCabe, Eber Currier, Bess Parks, and Allan Swenson.

Bob Demers President of the N.H. Pumpkins Growers Association and owner and operator of Demers Garden Center in Manchester gave a fascinating description of growing giant pumpkins. It is a lot of work so you really have to be determined to stick with it but once you win a prize for it, then it becomes a challenge. His slide show gave us a very good picture of what you need to do to make them grow bigger and bigger and bigger. He is going to donate a few plants to our gardeners this spring. This should be very interesting to watch their growth.

Karen and Bob reported on the Community Gardens. From March 15, 2012 to April 15, 2012 all Merrimack residents can sign up and after May 1, 2012 all others can sign up. They donated two plots to the Girl Scouts. There were some tomato cages left but they have to be cleaned with a 90% water to 10% Clorox mixture to disinfect to prevent diseases from reoccurring. There will be a new sign at the Transfer Station in a week or two.

Bob rototilled the Community Garden Monday April 9' 2012. Bob McCabe got the trench dug for water around the Community Garden and Bob started putting pipe in the ground. MVD said there was 88 lbs. of pressure at the hydrant. Help is needed next Monday or Tuesday to finish getting plots ready to go. Four water faucets are located around the garden about 40 ft., 60 ft. apart and one at the top. Gardeners who bring in trash barrels should be responsible for taking them back out at the end of the season.

Parks and recreation would like everyone to pay close attention to the No Parking signs abutting the Community Garden.

Treasurer's report; Bess said \$290.00 has been collected and \$230 was turned into Town Finance Dept. Other \$60.00 will be coming in soon.

Approved: May 9, 2012

Cindy reported on the sub-committee on May 9, 2012. They will meet at 6:30, before the regular Agricultural Commission meeting at May 11, 2012 at 7:00 P.M. and will have their first big meeting in June.

Karen (sponsored by the Library and the Ag Commission) met with over 30 people at the library conducting a workshop on how to plant seeds and care for your plants. There will be another one on April 23, 2012 to show them how to save time by using seed tapes. The library is being very co-operative and anytime they can help to teach residents new things is their aim.

The pruning session at John Lastowka's Farm was a huge success. Over 100 people came. It was a daylong event (9:00 A.M. to 3:30 P.M.). UNHCE pruned the larger trees in the morning. John provided hot coffee and food for lunch and then they pruned the grapes and blueberries. Bob helped with the tall trees with his bucket truck on Horse Hill Nature Preserve.

Minutes of March 14, 2012 were read. Cindy moved to accept them and Bess seconded. They were accepted 5-0-0.

Eber brought up the subject of the Conservation Commission website that Tim Tenhave is working on. There is a possibility that they may list the local farms. John and Eber will work on a review process and John will put together a letter to be discussed further later.

Those selling produce need proper scales and a yearly license to sell at the Farmer's Market or at their own farm stand.

Bess moved to adjourn, Cindy seconded. Vote was 5-0-0. The meeting was adjourned at 9:09p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Trudy Currier