

Approved: September 12, 2012

**That the Merrimack Agricultural Commission
Minutes
May 9, 2012**

Chairman John Lastowka called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. In attendance were Allen Lindahl, Karen Swenson, Cindy Warhola, Bob McCabe, Eber Currier, Bess Parks, and Allan Swenson.

Bob, Karen, and Allan cut a trench around the whole garden at Wasserman Park and the three put pipe in ground the 1st day because rain was predicted. We are so thankful for the help and approval of the Merrimack Village District and the Parks and Recreation Department. The MVD will be connecting the water the 17th of May. There will be 80 pounds of water pressure and pipe that should handle 100 pounds so it should work out just fine. Tom Hanlon, our new Farmer's Market volunteer supervisor helped square off plots at the Community Garden. There will be giant pumpkin growing there this year. There will be a meeting at 10 a.m. on Saturday, the 12th of May at the Garden led by Karen giving info and answering any questions about how to plant and tools needed, etc. Her meeting at the library showing people how to make seed tapes was very successful.

Bess gave treasurer's report and we have \$290.00 and \$130 so \$420 so far. Bess also knows of a student who needs to do 200 hours of community service and was thinking she might make a good assistant to Tom Hanlon this season at the Farmer's Market, We will look into it.

Cindy reported on the Farmer's Market. It will open on Wednesday, June 6, 2012 from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Tractor Supply parking lot. John will be there that week to assist Tom Hanlon. The subcommittee talked about maybe having the 4H or FFA have a display there but that might involve animals. We probably aren't allowed to do that. John will talk to the town manager; Eileen Cabanel. The Boy Scouts might want to have an info table there about their idea of building a bridge on town property such as Horse Hill Nature Preserve and Greater Woods.

Cindy moved to have \$350 available to buy more tote bags to sell and business cards and magnets. We may not need that much but better to have it available. Bess seconded. Vote was 6-0-0.

Eber talked about the new web site that the Conservation Commission is establishing with links to local farmers who wish to be listed on it. Allen Lindahl, Allan Swenson, John Lastowka, Bob McCabe, and Eber Currier all agreed to do this and Eber will call other farmers to let them know. Eber also moved to renew our membership with N.H. Farm Bureau for up to \$125.00. Bob seconded. Vote was 6-0-0.

Allen moved to accept the minutes of April 11, 2012 with the correction of a couple of typos. Cindy seconded. Vote was 6-0-0.

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Karen and Allan Swenson went to a Giant Pumpkin meeting up at Demers Garden Center and found a few other helpful tips to give our gardeners who are growing in our garden plots at Wasserman Park. Such as killing weeds with a flame torch, this needs further discussion.

The proposal about not allowing your own children or grandchildren to work on a personal farm which was withdrawn, this is one good reason for us to belong and working with the Farm Bureau. Rob Johnson, the director, spends much time at the State House letting the legislators know the farmers views on these issues and this is one that could have affected many of us.

Allen moved to adjourn and Bess seconded. Vote was 6-0-0. Adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

**Respectfully submitted,
Trudy Currier**