

## **MERRIMACK AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION**

**OCTOBER 10, 2012**

### **MINUTES**

Meeting called to order at 7:03 PM by Chairman John Lastowka. Present were Cindy Warhola, Bob McCabe, John Lastowka, Eber Currier, and Bess Parks.

John Lastowka and Bob McCabe brought in maps for Master Plan, which will be a help to the Conservation Commission, Agricultural Commission, and the Master Plan people. The town website has 9 or 10 farms on it but there could be many more. Ralph Wilmer is working on the updated Master Plan. There are active farms, inactive farms, tree farms, etc. who may want their farms listed, please contact the Ag Commission or the Master Plan Committee.

Bess Parks gave the treasurer's report. \$485.00 was received since last meeting in September 2012, making a total of \$3,015.12

The drought this year has had a major impact on crops in the U.S.A. The USDA predicts there will be a 3 to 4% increase on milk, beef, poultry, and eggs for next year and 2 to 3% increase on fruits and vegetables because of a large shortage of rainfall in the US.

John Lastowka and Cindy Warhola reported on our ad in the Union Leader. We will have to decide if it was worthwhile to do again next year.

The Spotted Wing Drosophila (SWD) has cause a major crop failure to the big blueberry crops in Maine.

The Brown Marmorated Stinkbugs are now present in NH. If you find any please notify UNHCE and save in a sealed plastic bag for inspection from UNHCE.

The Farmers Market subcommittee is going to be dissolved in November 2012. The vote was 5-0-0 to dissolve it.

Bob McCabe cleaned out the Community Garden. Wendy McShane and Tom Hanlon helped Bob McCabe to clean up and rototill. Tomorrow Bob McCabe will plant the winter rye. Every gardener was sent a survey to be sent back to the Ag Commission, please send in the survey sent to you.

Minutes of the September 12, 2012 were read and corrected. Cindy voted to accept them and Bob seconded. Vote was 5-0-0 to accept them.

Approved: January 9, 2013

**John announced that unless we get some more volunteers that we would have to dissolve the Farmer's Market.**

**Eber said this is one of the best years he has had at his Orchard. John had some good Heirloom Apples, such as the Wolf River and that variety can weigh one pound. The Spitzenburg is another Heirloom apple. Bess has a Spitzenburg trees on her farm.**

**Cindy moved to adjourn. Bess seconded it. Vote was 5-0-0. Adjournment was at 7:59.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Trudy Currier (acting secretary)**