

MERRIMACK AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION
Matthew Thornton Room, East Wing
June 11, 2014

Chairman Bob McCabe called the meeting to order at 6:59 p.m. Present were Cindy Warhola, Bob McCabe, Eber Currier and Bess Parks.

There were no comments from the press or public.

New Business:

- a) **RSA-79-F:** This is a bill that could possibly save the farmer a few dollars – if he fits all the criteria. If a farmer has more than 10 acres, he probably already has his land in current use, which give him a reduced rate on land taxes. RSA-79-F need to be studied carefully to determine if it would be advisable for him to look into. There will be more information about this in future meetings.
- b) **Farmer's Market Update:** Our first market will be held next week. There will be 14 vendors. Cindy will get some info on Facebook. For now, Bob McCabe will be out Market Aide assisted by Wendy McShane.
- c) **Community Garden Update:** There are presently three plots left. Bob got the results back from the Extension Services on the soil sample. Good report – no lyme required and it tested high for magnesium, potassium and phosphorous so it needs no fertilizer nor mulch.
- d) **UNH Education Classes:** The Emerald Ash Borer is present in N.H. now so everyone needs to be on the lookout for it. On the 13th of June there will be a class in Concord from 12:30 to 4:30 about the Hemlock Woolly Aphid. Ticks should be heavy between May 15th and June 15th but need to be watchful of them at all times. The Boscowan Ag Commission and the University of New Hampshire will be having a meeting on insects, plants and weeds. Boscowan is only about 40 minutes away. And on July 2nd there will be a meeting at LaVoie's Farm in Hollis from 5 to 7 p.m. about caring for your soil. Extension experts will be there to answer questions. Any questions anyone has can be answered on the UNH Extension Services website answers@unh.edu.
- e) Two members' terms are expiring. Cindy Warhola will be applying for her seat again. John Lastowka will not be. He will be sorely missed. Hopes are that he will miss the Agricultural Commissioners so much that he will return soon to help them with all his knowledge of farming.
- f) Bess Parks gave the Treasurer's report – Farmers' Market has \$2,208.79 and Community Garden has \$2,049.26, making a total of \$4,258.05 as of May 30, 2014.
- g) Draft minutes were reviewed from the May 14, 2014 and May 19, 2014 meetings. Cindy Warhola moved to accept and Bess Parks seconded. Vote was 4-0-0.

Bess Parks moved to put aside \$400.00 for 4 months for a porta-potty, if necessary. Cindy Warhola seconded. Vote was 4-0-0. We will use Dave's service as he is the town's choice.

Cindy moved to adjourn, Bess seconded. Vote was 4-0-0.

July 9th will be the next meeting. Bob will not be here for the September meeting so Cindy will take over for him.

Respectfully submitted,

Trudy Currier (acting secretary)