

Merrimack Agricultural Commission
June 13, 2012
Approved Minutes

Chairman John Lastowka called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Present were Allen Lindahl, Cindy Warhola, Bob McCabe, John Lastowka, Eber Currier, Bess Parks.

- A. Bob McCabe reported on the Community Garden, 2/3 of our gardeners are returning from last year and the other 1/3 are new gardeners. In May, Bob McCabe switched signs on the Community Garden at the Transfer Station. The gardeners are very happy with the new water spigots. The seeds are doing very well. The giant pumpkins are growing but they are worried about rodents damaging them. Karen Swenson made up a sign at the Community Garden for weekly discussions on Tuesday evenings at 7 p.m. So if anyone needs help or advice, she will be there to offer assistance.
- B. Treasurer's report – Bess did not have a complete report so will give us an accurate report at next month's meeting on July 11th, 2012.
- C. Farmer's Market, Tom Hanlon, our new Market manager, John Lastowka, and Karen Swenson set up at the Market today. There were 11 vendors. A new vendor would like to sell his handcrafted Bird and Bat houses. Our rules say no non-ag crafts allowed but these are made from real wood and tree farming is agriculture and it is local. Cindy Warhola made a motion on behalf of Turner Wood web products to see if we will allow him to do that. Bess Parks seconded. There is a concern that there might be other vendors coming forth. Vote was 4-2-0. Cindy Warhola and Allen Lindahl were against it.
Cindy moved to take \$50 to buy ink for fliers. Eber seconded. Vote was 6-0-0.
Bess will do clean up on July 11, July 18, and July 25, 2012. We need volunteers on these three dates to do set ups. The last market will be on September 26, 2012 Eber has last two weeks of the Farmers Market. Tom Hanlon will be the market manager for all of these.
- D. Bob McCabe said there was four inches of rain last week at the Community Garden, replant seeds or plants as necessary. Some plants do not look good due to late blight on tomatoes and potatoes. Ask fellow farmers for advice on how to control these problems. Nitrogen can easily be washed away by rainfall, so redress sides of plants as necessary. Call or e-mail for advice from Agricultural Commissioners. Merrimack Farmer's Market@gmail.com.

- E. Minutes of May 9, 2012, the last paragraph was in question so John will call Rob Johnson for an update on the farm proposal bill and we will vote on this next month. Allen moved and Cindy seconded to table. Vote was 6-0-0.

Comments from Commissioners:

Bob & Karen came in under budget with water supplies and work at Community Garden. This is the last week to sign up for a garden plot, please fill out application or call.

Bess had been talking to Debbie Countermarch at the Merrimack Chamber of Commerce and she would like to have Agriculture Commission listed in their news magazines. John said she had already called him and he gave her information. Eber talked about Conservation Commission's web site and they have a link to a list of Merrimack farmers.

Peter Flood called John to see if there were any vendors interested to be in the athletic field beside Masticola School on July 4, 2012 for their event. Only the Dessert woman will be there.

Cindy is resigning as Chairman of the sub-committee when this season of Farmer's Market is over because of a heavy workload at her work but she will remain as a commissioner.

Master Plan Sub-Committee – Nancy Larson and Ralph Wilmer talked to John about info for the Master Plan on farmers. They don't want farms to be going out of business. They will be sending e-mail to John and Bob about mentioning farms in the Master Plan.

Bess moved to adjourn. Allen seconded. Adjourned at 8:15.

Respectfully,
Trudy Currier