

**MERRIMACK AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION**  
**MINUTES**  
**January 14, 2015**

Meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. by Chairman Bob McCabe. Present were Cindy Warhola, Bob McCabe, Bess Parks, Eber Currier, and Pete Gagnon. Pete was asked to fill in as a full member this evening.

**Comments from the press or public** – none at this time

**New Business**

- (a) **Farmer's Market update:** Christine Lavoie has started to assemble master lists of vendors. Bob has received info from three vendors so far. He has sent out 167 letters. As to signage, we have two new Market signs being painted. They are double sided. There will be one at both the north and south entrance of Vault Storage on D.W. Highway
- (b) **Community Garden update:** Bob sent soil into U.N.H. to be tested so the gardeners will know if they need to add any nutrients to the soil this year for the gardener's to get good crops. On March 9, 2015 there will be an educational meeting in the Klump Room at the Merrimack Public library at 7 p.m. and a volunteer seed swap. Members of the Agricultural Commission will be on hand to answer any questions the audience may have to make their gardening experience successful.
- (c) **Merrimack farmer's mailing and new members:** Eber will go and talk to the Town Manager about amending the By-Laws to allow people who own farmland in Merrimack but reside outside of town to be able to be a full member of the Agricultural Commission.
- (d) **UNH Extension classes:** There are so many classes to help you in farming and taking care of your land and crops and animals. There are pruning demonstrations in Milford March 28<sup>th</sup>, and in Hollis at Brookdale Farm on April 3<sup>rd</sup>. There are weed control meetings, vegetable growers meetings, Marketing techniques and much information on all of these subjects at the Farm and Forest Expo on February 6 and Feb. 7, 2015 at the Radisson in Manchester. You can go online at <http://extension.unh.edu/Agriculture> for complete listings at any time. Or you can call Bob McCabe at 759-2737 or e-mail him at [bobmccabe@comcast.net](mailto:bobmccabe@comcast.net).
- (e) **Bug Alert:** There is new data out about the pests we have in our country – we are eating clean food raised by farmers who monitor their crops for bugs. Going by BMP (best management practices) is working. Farmers are testing the pests to be sure they can get by without using another spray. Often there is another bug that will eat the bad bugs. Education has made such a difference in the past forty years. We are still watching for the Emerald Ash Borer – there will be a meeting in Concord on January 30, 2015. You can go to [NH.Bugs.org](http://NH.Bugs.org) for more information.

- (f) **Winter Horse Care:** Bess presented more information on winter care of your horses. They do need salt as they lose salt when they sweat.
- (g) **Treasurer's report:** Farmer's Market has \$1,988.01 in their account. Community Garden has \$2,049.28, making a total of \$4,037.29 on December 31, 2014.
- (h) **Minutes:** Review minutes from Dec. 10, 2014. Bess moved to accept, Pete seconded. Vote was 4-0. Cindy was absent at that meeting.

**Special Guest** - Don Miner, a farmer on Peaslee Road in Merrimack, came in to talk about becoming a member of the Agricultural Commission. He had just come from delivering a lamb. He already is a vendor at the Farmer's Market in Merrimack and a couple of other towns also.

Pete moved to accept Don Miner as new member. Vote was 5-0-0.

Next meeting will be February 11, 2015.

Respectfully submitted,

Trudy Currier (acting secretary)