

MERRIMACK AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION
MINUTES
MAY 13, 2015

Chairman Bob McCabe called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. Present were Don Miner, Eber Currier, Bess Parks, and Bob McCabe.

- (a) **4H demonstration by Elyse Morano:** Elyse Morano from the 4H Club Silver Stirrups 411 gave a very impressive and informative speech on the Brindle Horse, which is a very rare striped horse. Her presentation included a video showing of several Brindles. There are 2 donkeys and one mule Brindle in the USA. Elise has her own Brindle being delivered to Sugar Hill in Weare on May (September) 20, 2015.
- (b) **Farmer's Market Update:** Bob has received a few more calls from vendors who would like to sell their produce starting June 17, 2015 at the Merrimack Farmer's Market. It will be open from 3p.m. to 6 p.m. every Wednesday until October 14, 2015 at the Vault Motor Storage on D.W. Highway-site of the old Zyla's. There was some discussion about trying to obtain grant money to help with record keeping and pricing. The Commission will be looking for more information about that.
- (c) **Community Garden Update:** Vendors would like to have a flag flying to honor the Veteran's plot. Bob's going to talk to the Parks and Recreation staff to see if that can be done. There are only 4 or 5 garden plots left for this season. The water's on so the gardeners can keep their new plants and seeds watered.
- (d) **Update on Kinder Morgan project:** KM has not filed a route with Ferc yet. So many residents and farmers could be affected, depending on where they decide to run the pipeline. So all residents should keep abreast of the news on the town website.
- (e) **UNH Extension classes:** There are several classes this month. One on vegetables in Milton, one in Charleston on irrigation, another in Pembroke on pruning evergreens and shrubs. Again you can go online at extension.unh.edu to obtain info on all of their informational classes. Or call Bob McCabe at 759-2737.
- (f) **Bug Alert:** Need to watch for the Emerald Ash Borer on your Ash trees and get rid of them or they will destroy the trees. The white Pine borers are back. Huge mosquitoes. And the avian influenza is moving – spread by wild birds. Dangerous for any kind of birds—chickens, hens, geese, turkeys, pigeons.
- (g) **Spring Horse Care:** Barn Safety Tips: Plan of Action: Firemen need to know how to get horses out of stable. Owner needs to post phone for the nearest fire department plus phone number of your vet. Fans should be cleaned up—feel for hot hay. Barn doors should be cleaned up and clear. No horse play in barn. Do not mount horse in barn. Store feed and hay away from heat. These items should be stored at least 6 feet away from the horses as they could reach it when kicking. Electrical outlets repaired immediately. Clean rubbish barrel nearby. If you hear thunder – dismount at once. Halter and lead line close to horse in case of fire.
- (h) **Treasurer's report:** As of April 30, 2015 the Farmer's Market had \$2,646.89 and the Community Garden had \$2,688.66, making a total of \$5, 335.55.

(i) **Review of Draft minutes of April 15, 2015:** Bess Parks moved to accept them and Don Miner seconded. Vote was 4-0-0.

Comments from Commissioners: Bob McCabe thinks we need a new list of active farmers in Merrimack. Eber Currier will work it up and bring it to the next meeting for discussion. Bob McCabe and Don Miner are starting two Bee hives for their own property.

Bess Parks will be working on updating and refreshing the sign to place at Vault Motor Storage for the Farmer's Market this season, which starts on June 17, 2015.

Bess moved to adjourn, Don seconded. Vote was 4-0-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m. The next meeting will be on June 10, 2015.

Respectfully submitted,

Trudy Currier (Acting Secretary)