

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

Bob McCabe called the meeting to order at 7:05. Present were Bob McCabe, Eber Currier, Bess Parks, and Don Miner.

Commission members decided to put Elyse Morano's report on her 4-H activities in first (i on agenda).

She is competing in a local competition this week-end at Pembroke High School and she did another show recently in New Boston. She will be competing in November at the National Team Exposition in Louisville, Kentucky. They will be driving down for it. Elyse is presently boarding her Brindle horse at another nearby location, where she is being fed hay from Canada. She is looking forward to more shows in June of 2016.

- (a) **Farmer's Market update:** The last day was today at Vault Motor Storage. In November, Bob will update rules and regulations and do mailings to vendors. Shaleigh Nelson has been helping Bob for 5 or 6 hours on Wednesdays during Market days. Bess moved to appropriate \$150.00 for Bob's bookwork, Don Miner seconded. Vote was 4-0-0.
- (b) **Winter Farmer's Market:** Don is volunteering to run a Farmer's Market this winter. Has been talking to Steve Dembow about renting the Senior Center on Thursday afternoons to hold the Winter Farmer's Market. Cost would be \$250.00 a month. Don will get permission and advice from Town Administer, Eileen Cabanel and Paul Micali. Don will get a sign for the winter market and has already talked to the vendors. There will likely be a separate account for the Winter Market with its own receipt book for the vendors' accounts. Eber Currier moved for Don to go forward setting up the plans, with Eileen and Paul reading through the lease with Steve Denbow and appropriating \$250.00 for first month's lease and \$150.00 for signage. Bess seconded. Vote was 4-0-0.
- (c) **Community Garden update:** 5 or 6 gardeners left their plots a mess again. Loretta J. and Diane helped Bob clean it up – filled the dump truck. But now Bob can get it winterized so the soil will be in good shape for next spring. Bess Parks moved to reimburse Bob \$75.00 for winter rye seed, Eber seconded. Vote was 4-0-0.
- (d) **UNH Extension classes:** Free talks on how to put your gardens to bed will be held in Boscowan, N.H. on November 2, 2015. Another all-day meeting on November 2, 2015 will be about pollinators and bees. More educational classes can be found on extension.unh.edu or by calling Bob at 759- 2737. There is also an all-day meeting on November 7, 2015 at the Extension office in Goffstown about fruit trees -4 ½ pesticide credits available.
- (e) **Bug alert:** Ticks are still around – cover up and check yourself when you've been in wooded areas.
- (f) **Update on Kinder-Morgan project:** Special meeting with the Merrimack Town Council brought more surprises. While all attendees were prepared to discuss the last route, the K-M people walked in with a new route which no one was prepared for. They say they will be filing for a final route in November.

- (g) **Horse Sense:** Bess talked about care of your horses in winter – a hot water trough is very helpful, good blankets, a medical box kept up to date, knowledge of any meds your horse needs, and a good maintenance routine.
- (h) **Treasurer's report:** As of September 30, 2015, the Farmer's Market has \$4,120.22, the Community Garden has \$2,898.66, making a total \$7,018.88.
- (i) **Update on Elyse Morano trip:** The 4-H fund donated \$300.00 for her trip and Bess moved to give her \$100.00 to help with her trip to Louisville, Kentucky. Eber seconded. Vote was 4-0-0.
- (j) **Review draft Minutes from September 9, 2015:** Bess moved to accept minutes of September 9, 2015. Don seconded. Vote was 4-0-0.

Comments from Commissioners: Eber said the Apple crop is great this year. Bob moved to adjourn Don seconded. Vote was 4-0-0.

Next meeting will be November 11, 2015.

Respectfully submitted,

Trudy Currier