

MERRIMACK AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION
MINUTES
December 9, 2015

Bob McCabe called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. Present were Bob McCabe, Eber Currier, Amanda Yonkin, Bess Parks, and Pete Gagnon.

Comments from the press or public: Elyse Morano was present, with her Mom, to tell us about her exciting trip to in Kentucky. She won third place nationally for her presentation on the Brindle Horse and on Communication skills, winning trophies and ribbons. She also thanked the Agricultural Commission for the financial help they provided. The Commission donates money to the 4-H every year to help the 4-H members in whatever endeavors they are working on.

The newest member on the Agricultural Commission is Amanda Yonkin who started the local 4-H group, called The Silver Stirrups, ten years ago. Elyse has been a member of the Silver Stirrups for ten years. Elyse 's time with The Silver Stirrups has come to an end but she would encourage anyone interested in any farm endeavor to join and get to know others with similar interests. She will now be going on with her education – probably majoring in horse culture. Congratulations Elyse and thanks for sharing your good news with the Commission.

- (a) **Farmer's Market Update:** In mid-January Bob McCabe will be making a large mailing to potential market vendors to convey an application and the rules for the 2016 Farmers' Market starting in June.
- (b) **Winter Farmer's Market Update:** The Winter Farmers' Market has started at the O'Leary Center on Thursday from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. There were 8 vendors. There was cheese, bakers, hydroponic growers, coffee roasters, wines, and take home food. A good start. It will be held every Thursday, weather permitting.
- (c) **Community Garden Update:** With all this warm weather still hanging around, the winter rye is already sprouting. Bob will ask permission of the library staff to have a meeting there, in March, to provide information to gardener's looking to rent a plot to plant their garden in the spring at Wasserman Park.
- (d) **4-H Donation:** To encourage more young people to go into some type of farming, the Commission talked about the amount of the donation to put into the 4-H. Bess Parks moved to make it \$500, instead of the \$200 they have been giving. Amanda Yonkin seconded. Vote was 5-0-0.

- (e) **UNH extension classes:** There are again classes going on much of the time. extension.unh.edu is the number to go to online for any information. Plant growers and dealers providing nursery stock were reminded that it is time to renew their annual nursery license.
- (f) **Bug Alert:** Ticks are still here so be watchful and protect yourselves.
- (g) **Horse Sense:** winter months are excellent for both horse and rider. They need more water and food. Long walks or a gentle jog with a light blanket- walk to evaporate moisture. If he's snorting, walk longer to get him okay. And put a heavy blanket on him after wiping him down.
- (h) **Update on Kinder-Morgan Project:** Discussion at next meeting.
- (i) **Treasurer's report:** As of 11-30-2015 Farmer's Market has \$3957.49, Community Garden has \$2848.66, making a total of \$6806.15.
- (j) **Minutes:** Review draft minutes from November 11, 2015. Eber moved to accept, Amanda seconded. Vote was 5-0-0. Next meeting will be on January 13, 2016.

Pete has some sweet peppers and hot peppers seedlings left, if anyone wants them. Pete moved to adjourn. Everyone agreed. Adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Trudy Currier