

## Merrimack Agricultural Commission Minutes February 10, 2016

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

### New Business

- (a) **Farmer's Market update:** Bob McCabe has sent out 270 envelopes concerning the Summer Farmer's Market. He will be looking into hiring Shaelagh to help with the summer farmer's market.
- (b) **Winter Farmer's Market update:** Market is picking up every week. Don had 10 vendors, including two tables on agroponics, the coffee vendor (Falmouth Grocer's), the beef and chicken lady, the cheese man, and others. Amanda volunteered to e-mail vendors 2 days in advance of Market Day. Don is collecting weekly from the vendors and turning it in to the Town office. Bob will ask Tammie to give Don the proof of insurance forms on Monday or Tuesday to give to vendors. Need more signage – maybe at the library and run a weekly ad in Telegraph and Merrimack Journal until May.
- (c) **Community Garden update:** Bob sent three soil samples up to the Extension Service at the University of New Hampshire. The annual meeting for perspective gardeners at Wasserman Park gardens this spring will be held at the Klump Room at the public library on March 1, 2016 at 7 p.m. There will be a seed and swap table which will be manned by Commissioner Yonkin. Other members should be there by 6:30 p.m.
- (d) **UNH Extension Classes:** There will be a marketing meeting on February 11, 2016. Dairy meetings will be held February 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> in Lancaster and Concord. March 6 there will be a meeting in Canterbury on just apples (rain date is March 13). On February 18 there will be a class in Concord on Farm to Retail. Gail McWilliam from the Dept. of Agriculture Development Group will be in charge. February 19 there will be a 6 week course at the South Congregational Church in Concord on Bee Keeping. More info on this can be found at [www.capitolbeekeepers.org](http://www.capitolbeekeepers.org). Agway also has a course on bees. Again you can always get info on educational classes at <http://extension.unh.edu/Agriculture> for complete listings at any time. There will be an all-day meeting at Maplegate Farm – John Lastowka's place - on March 26, 2016. At 9 a.m. there will be information and a presentation on Apple tree pruning, followed by blueberry maintenance. From 1p.m. to 3p.m. they'll be working on the grapevines. A donation of \$5.00 would be appreciated.
- (e) **Bug Alert:** Emerald Ash Borer has been found in Sullivan County. You can contact the Extension Service in Goffstown if you need help in dealing with this problem.
- (f) **Horse Sense:** Bess read us some very interesting facts about horses – such as they have the largest eye of any animal, they are not color blind. Monocular vision means they have two different eyes. Binocular vision means they only see down their nose – don't get too close to them or they may not be able to see you very well. Their ears are at different angles! They are a colt until they turn 5, then become a horse or a stallion. They have 18 vertebrae except for an Arab, who only has 17 vertebrae. Now you know some horse trivia!
- (h) **Treasurer's Report:** As of February 3, 2016 the Farmer's Market has \$3,930.18, the Community Garden has \$2, 796.66, making a total of \$6,726.84. The Winter Market has \$120.

- (i) **Minutes:** Review draft minutes from February 10, 2016. Bess moved to accept, Don seconded. Vote was 5-0-0.

Bess moved to adjourn, Don seconded. Vote was 5-0-0. Adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Next meeting will be on March 9, 2016

Respectfully submitted,

Trudy Carrier