

MERRIMACK AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION
MINUTES
April 13, 2016

Bob McCabe called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m. Present were Ron Miner III, Don Miner, Bob McCabe, Eber Currier, and Bess Parks.

New Business:

- (a) **Farmer's Market Update:** One music vendor asked Bob if she could play music for tips, which might involve insurance problems so Bob will have to consult with the town office about this. There are quite a few vendors signed up for the upcoming Summer Market at Vault MOTOR STORAGE. 4 vegetable farmers, 3 bakers and meat vendors will be there. Homemade jelly, soap, cheese, are a few of the wares available for sale. Bob and Shaleigh and Alan Swenson will be helping out.
- (b) **Winter Farmer's Market Update:** There is another town event planned for the Senior Citizen building on April 21, 2016 so Steve Dembow says the Winter Farmer's Market can still be held outside and there will be no charge. Don moved to accept that offer and Eber seconded. Vote was 5-0-0. It has been suggested that we could look into renting space at the MYA for this coming winter.
- (c) **Community Garden Update:** Bob rototilled the Garden Site on March 19, 2016 and will put in the stakes and ropes on Monday, April 18. He could use some help if anyone would like to volunteer. The Finance Committee sent bills to those five gardeners who did not clean up their plot at the end of the season last year. Three responded to the Finance Office. Two have not.
- (d) **UNH Extension Classes:** There are still training classes around the state – you can get the list of what and where by going online at <http://extension.unh.edu/Agriculture> or by calling Bob McCabe at 759-2737. Help with your lawn and gardening concerns can be found at answers@unh.edu.
- (e) **Bug Alert:** The Emerald Ash Borer is doing a lot of damage to the Ash Trees and the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid are eating away on the Hemlocks trees have now been seen in 30 towns in New Hampshire. The deer ticks are very plentiful this year.
- (f) **Horse Sense:** Bess shared some good information about trail riding with your horse. If a landowner is allowing you to ride on his land, be sure you let him know when you're there and thank him when you leave. Be patient and courteous with other riders and your horse. Say hello so the horse and rider know you're behind them. Otherwise the horse might panic. Hikers should yield to horses and use caution. If there are any mushers out there, holler to let them know when they are too close to your horse. RSA 125 says you must have written permission from the landowner to ride horses there.
- (h) **Treasurer's Report:** As of March 31, 2016
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|------------------------|------------|
| Farmer's Market | \$5,008.18 |
| Community Garden | \$2,917.31 |
| Total | \$7,925.49 |
| Winter Farmer's Market | \$495. |

(i) **Minutes from March 9,2016** Draft minutes were accepted with corrections. Don moved to accept and Bess seconded. Vote was 4-1-0.

Comments from Commissioners: Commissioners need to come up with some wording to go along with scholarship forms for Agricultural students. And Bob could use some more farm pictures – or pics of Community Garden or the Farmer’s Market to put up at the library.

Next meeting on May 11,2016.

Move to adjourn at 8:45 p.m. Vote was 5-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Trudy Currier

DRAFT