

**MERRIMACK AGRICULTURAL
COMMISSION MINUTES
June 8, 2016**

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Bob McCabe at 7 p.m. Present were Ron Miner III, Don Miner, Bob McCabe, Eber Currier, and Bess Parks.

- (a) Pre-interview with Paul Drone as a possible member. Paul has lived in Merrimack for 40 plus years, teaches in Merrimack school system, has a definite interest in farming – raises a few fainting goats and chickens, and would like to serve as a full member. Paul and Bob will meet with Town Council members and Agriculture Commission members for a final interview.
- (b) Summer Farmer's Market: First Market starts on June 15th at the Vault Motor Storage at 526 DW Highway from 3 to 6 p.m. Bob will have a new sign up at the Transfer Station by then. Shaelagh is working up new information to go on Facebook each week. We anticipate 35 vendors. Members of the Commission will be there to help set up as there is a slightly different vendor set up this year.
- (c) Winter Farmer's Market: Don Miner will continue next fall with the Winter Market as more people are finding out about it and interest and demand ramps up
- (d) Community Garden: 80% of plots are taken and many plants blooming already.
- (e) Annual Review- June 9, 2016. All members read and reviewed the work put into it by Bob McCabe and Ron Miner who will read and discuss it at a Town Council meeting.
- (f) Library Project: Lee Gilmore will be our library contact to work with.
- (g) UNH Extension Classes: There will be a twilight meeting at Lavoie's Farm in Hollis on June 29, 2016. For a complete list you can find information at <http://extension.unh.edu/Agriculture> or by calling Bob McCabe at 759-2737. Information about lawn or gardening care can be found at answers@unh.edu from 9 to 2 p.m.
- (h) Bug Alert: Ticks seem to be heavier this year. Inspect yourself carefully after being outdoors.
- (i) Horse Sense: Bess spoke about trail riding and all the necessary things that need to be done before leaving on these adventures, such as health certificates, rabies shots, rules when staying overnight, proper lighting. Preparing properly can mean a much more enjoyable trip for both rider and horse.
- (j) New Ideas on promoting educational programs or scholarships: Talked about several ideas- will continue this at next meeting. Commission Members support of current projects

(l) Treasurer's Report: As of May 31,2016: Farmer's Market---\$5,220.18

Community Garden--\$3,432.32

Total \$8,652.50

Winter Farmer's Market \$852.50

(m) Review minutes from June 8, 2016. Don Miner moved to accept, Bess seconded. Vote was 5-0-0.

Commissioner's comments: Pete Gagnon has plants for anyone who needs them – just go and pick them up at Willow Pond Nursery on Bedford Road.

Next meeting will be on July 13,2016. Adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Trudy Currier