

**MERRIMACK AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION
MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 14, 2016**

Meeting was called to order by Bob McCabe at 7:08 p.m. Present were Ron Miner III, Don Miner, Paul Drone, Bess Parks

No comments from the press or public:

- a) **Summer Farmer's Market update:** Fewer vendors and customers at the Wednesday September 14 market, due to the unsettled weather and wind conditions. October 12, 2016 will be the last summer market day.
- b) **Yard Signs for Farmer's Market:** 25, 2-sided market signs were ordered by Bob McCabe at \$13 each, total cost \$325.00. \$300.00 had been approved for the sign purchase, but was \$25.00 short. Motion made by Don Miner to reimburse Bob the additional \$25.00, second by Ron Miner III, Motion carried 5-0-0.
- c) Due to a summer storm, damage was incurred to the Vault Storage sign post and frame, which the market sign is also attached. Estimated cost for repair is \$150.00 for a sheet of aluminum. Bob, along with other Ag members will provide labor. Motion made by Don Miner to advance \$150.00 to Bob McCabe for repair materials, second by Ron Miner III, Motion carried 5-0-0.
- d) **Winter Farmer's Market Plans:** Don Miner reported that the winter market will begin on Wednesday, October 19 at the John O'Leary Senior Center. A weekly rent increase, from \$62.50, to \$68.75 was announced for the 2016-2017 season. The market will end in June, and beginning of the Summer market. Vendor weekly fees will remain at \$15.00. Ron spoke of having promotional post cards made with market information to hand out to customers and vendors. Don asked for \$200.00 to cover the expense. Paul Drone made a motion to advance Don \$200.00 for the cards, second by Ron Miner III, Motion carried 5-0-0.
- e) **Community Garden Update:** Bob felt the gardener's had a successful season, with the usual insect problems. The garden will be closed as of October 15. All garden fences, stakes, décor along with any remaining produce wanted, should be removed from the plots on time. Those who fail to abide by the garden rules will be fined.
- f) **4H Donation/Hillsborough Fair:** Eleven \$50.00 Blue Seal gift certificates, totaling \$550.00, were donated, to be awarded to the first place winner in the various divisions. Ron reported everyone was surprised and appreciative of receiving the additional reward. Ron also spoke of the Granite State Sponsorship Auction that the Ag Commission might consider contributing too in the future. Due to the timely manner in which the gift certificates needed to be obtained, Bob McCabe needed to be reimbursed for his out of pocket expense. Don Miner made the motion to reimburse Bob \$550.00, Ron Miner III second, Motion carried 5-0-0.
- g) **Letter from Shaelagh Nelson:** Shaelagh Nelson worked for and has become a valuable assist and team member for the Summer Farmer's Market for the last 2 years. She will be attending the University of Vermont studying environmental sciences, relevant to agriculture and earth sustainability. As part of the Ag Commission scholarship fund, \$500.00 was proposed to assist

Shaelagh with her college expenses. Motion made by Don Minter to appropriate the \$500.00, Ron Miner III seconded, Motion carried 5-0-0.

- h) **Flowers for Eber Currier:** Motion made by Don Miner to reimburse Bess Parks \$60 for funeral basket, second by Ron Miner III, Motion carried 5-0-0
- i) **Absenteeism:** A letter will be mailed to Amanda Yonkins regarding her 7-month absence from attending meetings. The letter to address her intentions to continue on the board or retire. Ag Commission by-laws require a board member to be in attendance on a regular basis, or be dismissed.
- j) **UNH Extension Classes:** Bob discussed upcoming classes/courses and fall fairs available to area residents.
- k) **Bug Alert:** Ticks and many other bugs have decreased due to the dry weather in many areas, but still out there along with persistent garden pest.
- l) **Horse Sense:** Bess spoke briefly on riding, driving, walking or biking safety on the roadways. Light filtering through the trees recreates blind spots that can become a dangerous situation with approaching vehicles. Stay as far to the right or left as safely possible, be alert and safe.
- m) **Treasurers Report:** To be read at the next meeting October 12, 2016.
- n) **Minutes:** Review of September 14, 2016 minutes. Motion made to accept by Bess Parks, second Don Miner, motion carried 5-0-0.

No Comments from the Press or Public
No Comments from the Commission

Don Miner made a motion to adjourn, second by Ron Miner III, Motion carried 5-0-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bess Parks, Acting Secretary