

MERRIMACK AGRICULTURE COMMISSION
MINUTES
MAY 10, 2017

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Bob McCabe at 7:10pm

Present: Don Miner, Bess Parks

Absent: Paul Drone, Ron Miner III

No Comments from the Press or Public

New Business:

- a. **Summer Market:** Ten vendors have signed up to attend the summer market opening June 14, 2017 at Vault Storage parking lot on the Daniel Webster Highway North in Merrimack. Additional vendors are needed, offering maple/honey, cheese, jams/jellies, candies, popcorn, bedding plants or other related products. Wendy Stevens from the NH Market Association contacted Bob regarding continued membership. Without a voting quorum, this item will be table for further discussion.
- b. **Winter Market:** Don reports five vendors attend the winter market on a regular basis. Customer traffic varies week to week. With 4 remaining markets at the John O'Leary Senior Center before the summer market opens, the board will waive the vendor fee for the 5 loyal vendors who have attended throughout the winter market season. The vendor's loyalty is greatly appreciated.
- c. **Portable Sign Discussion:** A portable sign is still a possibility, but more research is needed, along with approval from the Merrimack Planning Board, and possibly Merrimack Town Council. Further discussion at the June 14, 2017 meeting.
- d. **Community Garden Update:** Bob and Ron put the garden plot stakes in place, to be hopefully completed by May 20, weather permitting. Thirty-Seven plots have been assigned with more available. Information and application forms are available on the table, inside the town hall entrance.
- e. **4-H Donation:** The check for \$1,210.00 dollars was sent and received by Jolee Chase for the weigh scale purchase previously approved by the agriculture commission to benefit 4-H members in New Hampshire.
- f. **Direction for 2017:** Reminder that the Summer Farmer's Market opens June 14th, 2017. Bob completed the Worker's Protection Standards "Train the Trainer" pesticides recertification course. Anyone needing assistance regarding these new standards by contact Bob at bobmccabe@comcast.net. Bob also mentioned that the commission is accepting scholarship applications for any student furthering their education in an agricultural related field. 4-H members may also apply for assistance related to 4-H activities, emergency vet care, feed, or purchasing of livestock.
- g. **Upcoming Events:** See Attached

- h. **Bug Alert:** Ticks, gypsy moth, Eastern tent caterpillar, along with black flies are emerging.
- i. **Horse Sense:** Bess reported on Transitioning horses to spring pasture. It is best to introduce horses to new pasture gradually, starting with a grazing time of 15 minutes each day, until 4 to 5 hours are reached. After that, unrestricted grazing can resume. It is also recommended to feed horses their normal hay diet while transitioning to pasture.
- j. **Treasurers Report:** As of 4/30/2017. Summer Farmer's Market \$4,141.97, Community Garden \$3,447.10, Winter Farmer's Market \$1,371.25.
- k. **History of Farming:** No report this month.
- l. **Minutes:** April 12, 2017 minutes reviewed by those present. Will be voted on at the June 14, 2017 meeting, along with the minutes for May 10, 2017 when a voting quorum is available.

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

Meeting Adjourned at 7:55pm.

Next Meeting scheduled for June 14, 2017

Respectfully submitted,
Bess-Arden Parks
Acting Secretary