

**MERRIMACK AGRICULTURE COMMISSION  
MINUTES  
JUNE 14, 2017**

Meeting was called order by Chairman Bob McCabe at 7:40 p.m.

Present: Don Miner, Ron Mine III, Bess Parks

No Comments from the Press or Public

New Business:

- a. **Summer Market:** The Summer Market opened today, June 14, with 12 vendors offering a variety of products; many offering samples. Customer traffic was excellent. The market will be open now through mid- October. Dave's Septic dropped off the porta-potty at Vault Storage for the summer market season. Cost of \$36 approved by Don, Ron seconded motion carried 4-0-0.
- b. **Winter Market:** The Winter Market ended with the opening of the Summer Market. Don thanked all the vendors and customers for their continued loyalty and support.
- c. **Community Garden:** The Community Garden opened on May 20, with half the garden plots sold. Gardens have been planted and a good harvest is anticipated. Plots are still available, contact Bob at [bobmccabe@comcast.net](mailto:bobmccabe@comcast.net), or applications are still available at the town hall front entrance.
- d. **Upcoming Workshops/Seminars** – See Attached
- e. **Bug Alert:** All species are out in force with the wet spring conditions. Tick extremely bad this year.
- f. **Horse Sense:** Bess reported on "Rules of the Road", and "Being Courteous" when at carriage driving events. When attending a driving event, be on time, and have necessary paperwork for both yourself and horse if required. Allow ample space between trailers when parking for horses who may be tied there during the event. Be sure to have a slow-moving vehicle triangle on the back of the carriage. Stay as far to the right as is safe, except when passing. Check for cars before pulling out to pass, and let the turnout out ahead know you are passing. Walk pass ridden horses as they may not be used to seeing carriages. If someone is in trouble, wait until the situation is under control before passing in either direction. If someone is hitching or entering a carriage, wait until they are in the carriage or on the horse and in control before asking to pass. Never pass anyone at speed as it could cause an accident. Be safe and have fun.
- g. **Treasurer's Report:** As of June 5, 2017 the Summer Market balance is \$4,081.87. The Community Market balance is \$3,464.11, and Winter Market balance is \$1,321.25
- h. **Agricultural News:** Ron recently traveled to Ohio to purchase sheep to improve the bloodlines of his own flock, and came home with some other interesting facts. The United States inventory for lambs and sheep on January 1, 2017 totaled 5.2 million head, down 2 percent from 2016. Breeding sheep and market lambs were also down 2 percent from the previous year. On a positive note, sheep deaths were down 5 percent, 217,000 from 227, 850 the previous year.

- i. **Minutes:** The minutes were reviewed with Don making a motion to accept, Ron seconded, motion carried 4-0-0.

No Comments from the Press or Public

**Comments from the Commission:** Bob presented a piece of painted vinyl that he felt would be suitable for signage. The material is lightweight, easier to handle, put up at site locations and store.

Motion made to Adjourn at 8:10pm by Don, Ron seconded, motion carried 4-0-0.

Next meeting is scheduled for July 12, 2017

Respectfully Submitted

Bess-Arden Parks  
Acting Secretary