

**MERRIMACK AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION  
MINUTES  
DECEMBER 12, 2018**

Meeting called to order by Chairman Bob McCabe at 7:05 p.m.

Present: Paul Drone, Bess Parks, Don Miner

Absent: Ron Miner III

No Comments from the Press or Public

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- a. **COMMUNITY GARDEN:** Bob is working on a new 2019 application and agreement form, which will be mailed out after the first of the year. He also mentioned that the informational meeting for gardeners held in March will be discontinued due to lack of attendance. Gardeners may contact Bob with any questions regarding the community garden at ([merrimackgardens@gmail.com](mailto:merrimackgardens@gmail.com))
- b. **SUMMER MARKET:** The summer market is seeking new vendors for the 2019 market season. Information packets with applications, and agreement forms will be mailed out soon. Vendors wishing to receive an application or vendors already established who may have questions can contact: Bob McCabe, Merrimack Agricultural Commission, c/o the Town of Merrimack, 6 Baboosic Lake Rd., Merrimack, NH 03054.
- c. **WINTER MARKET:** Ten vendors participated at the winter market this week, along with a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus to the delight the young and old stopping by. Santa gave out special treats to the children along with having their picture taken. The winter market offers a nice variety of fresh produce, fish, bakery treats, flavored olive oils, meats, eggs, natural healing products and hand-crafted silver jewelry.
- d. **SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS:** Bob received a letter from Tom Boland, Deputy Finance Director and Treasurer of the Town of Merrimack. The letter was an inquiry on the disbursing of the scholarship funds. It is preferred that the guidance office issue to the finance department a letter at the time of disbursement identifying the student to whom the scholarship money is owed, and a check would be cut to the student at that time. This would provide an extra level of accountability to make sure the funds get disbursed in accordance with the Ag. Commission's wishes, rather than just giving the money in a lump sum to the High School. A question arose to how the \$2,000 scholarship funds be allocated between the three Agricultural Commission Accounts, and whether the \$55.00 reimbursement to Bob for the Habitat Restoration Workshop should be taken from the Farmer's Market or Community Garden account? Bob has received application forms from the high school guidance to fill out for each student to receive the scholarship. The scholarship funds will be taken in equal amounts from the three fund accounts, Summer Market, Winter Market and Community Garden. The \$55.00 reimbursed to Bob for the Habitat Restoration Workshop will be taken either from the Community Garden or Summer Market fund account.
- e. **QUESTIONS/ANSWERS:** There has been no response to date from Eileen Cabanel, Town Manager regarding the list of questions forwarded to her pertaining to the display

sign. Don will check on the status of the request, and report back to the commission at the January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019 meeting.

- f. HORSE SENSE: Equine Winter Care: The average horse needs to consume 2% of his body weight per day to maintain body condition. The bulk of the horse's diet should consist of forage, either hay or pasture. It is generally understood that some horses require less than 2% if they are easy keepers, while others such as pregnant mares, working athletes, breeding stallions and older horses could require up to 3%. A normal 1,000 horse that receives the bulk of his feed in hay should usually consume 20 pounds of hay per day. In severe cold weather 25 to 30 lbs. might be needed. The easy keeper can manage nicely on low nutrient hay, where an older horse or hard keeper is best managed on immature, tender, nutrient rich hay i.e. alfalfa hay or alfalfa grass mix. Forage helps to keep the horse warm. Always supply plenty of fresh clean water and salt block available. A three-sided shelter should be provided and blanketing as necessary. Keeping a horse dry prevents chilling and possible colic or other health issues. For information specific to winter horse management in your area or region contact your local extension office or your veterinarian.
- g. NEW IDEAS: Bob asked the board to give some thought to some new ideas/suggestions that would benefit the commissions mission for 2019. Bob is working on cards that would advertising for volunteers for the markets and the commission in general to be left at the town hall, along with advertising on the Town TV channel 20.
- h. UNCOMING WORKSHOPS: See Attached.
- i. TREASURERS REPORT: As of November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018, the Agricultural Commission Summer Farmer's Market Fund Account is \$4,749.88. The Community Garden Fund Account is \$1,971.22, with a combined total of \$6,721.10. The Winter Market Fund Account is \$483.34.
- j. MINUTES: The minutes were read with Don making the motion to accept, Paul seconded, motion carried 4-0-0.

No Comments from the Press or Public.

Comments from the Commission: Bob thanked everyone for their continued support and good wishes for a happy holiday. Don encourages the community to attend the winter farmers market and experience the best in local produce and other fine products. The Commission received a thank you note from Rose Ciofrone and her flock, for the \$50.00 gift certificate awarded her for her first-place finish in the poultry division at the Hillsborough County Fair in September 2018. The Commission sponsors the eleven 4-H divisions at the Hillsborough County Fair, by giving each first-place winner in a \$50.00 gift certificate to Blue Seal.

Don made the motion to adjourn at 7:48 p.m., Paul seconded, motion carried 4-0-0

The next meeting will be held January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019, at 7:00 p.m. in the Matthew Thornton Room, East Wing.

Respectfully Submitted

Bess-Arden Parks

Acting Secretary

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