

MERRIMACK AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION
MINUTES
November 12, 2014

Meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Chairman Bob McCabe. Present were Cindy Warhola, Eber Currier, Bess Parks, and Bob McCabe.

New Business

- a) **Farmer's Market update:** There are now 19 vendors signed up. Bob came up with 167 possible vendors and he would like to hire Christine Lavoie, present Market Aide, to send out mailings and follow-ups, which will hopefully result in another 15 vendors for next season plus 6 half season vendors. The Market needs a lobster vendor and a maple syrup vendor.
- b) **Community Garden update:** Bob has cleaned up the garden, planted winter Rye Grass and winterized the irrigation pipes. There will be a pre-meeting at Merrimack Public Library in the Klump Room for gardeners on March 9, 2015 at 7 p.m. We will also have a volunteer seed swap at the pre-meeting. Agricultural Commissioners will be there to answer any questions gardeners might have concerning planting and tending garden plots at Wasserman Park next spring.
- c) **Agricultural Commission elections:** Eber nominated Bob McCabe for Chairman, Cindy seconded. Vote was 4-0-0. Bob nominated Eber Currier for Vice-chairman, Bess seconded. Vote was 4-0-0. Bess was nominated for Treasurer. Vote was 4-0-0. Bob nominated Trudy Currier for Acting Secretary, Cindy seconded. Vote was 4-0-0.
- d) **Review of Merrimack farmers list for potential members:** Eber will send out letters to Merrimack farmers or to people interested in keeping farming alive in Merrimack. Bob asked for \$100.00 for extra postage needed for all of the mailings.
- e) **UNH extension classes:** The UNH Cooperative Extension offers a bounty of workshops and conferences for 2014 and 2015. List can be found at extension@unh.edu. There are several on Farm Safety Management, Tree Fruit meeting, landscaping, Income Taxes and Winter Botany. Any gardening questions can be answered by e-mailing answers@unh.edu or by telephone at 1-877-398-4769 (toll free) Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- f) **Bug Alert:** The Emerald Ash Borer has been found in a few towns, making it difficult for woodsmen to sell their products out of closed counties as the State of New Hampshire has issued a quarantine. Asian Longhorn Beetle is another pest to keep a look out for.

- g) **Equine update:** Bess spoke about the Winter Care of your horse. There are three basics: 1. Fresh clean water – also have a salt lick handy. 2. Proper nutrition. 3. Shelter from weather. Whether it be a barn or a lean-to or cover of some sort. Blankets and winter shoes (from a Farrier). These will prevent the horse from falling and breaking bones – or falling on you and injuring yourself. A first aid kit should include the following items: thermometer, leg bandages, gauze rolls, scissors, betadine, latex gloves, meds or allergy aids, medical list of horse ailments.
- h) **Treasurer's report:** No new figures to date.
- i) **Minutes:** Review of draft minutes from October 8, 2014: Bess moved to accept, Cindy seconded. Vote was 4-0-0.

Commissioner's comments: Cindy moved to change the Farmers' Market vendor's fee to \$100.00 for the full season and \$50.00 for half season. Bess seconded. Vote was 4-0-0. Next year's Farmer's Market will go from June 17th to October 14, 2015.

December meeting will be December 10, 2014.

Cindy moved to adjourn, Bess seconded. Vote was 4-0-0. Adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Trudy Currier