

**MERRIMACK AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION  
MINUTES  
NOVEMBER 13, 2019**

Meeting called to order by Chairman Bob McCabe at 7:06 pm

Present: Paul Drone, Ron Miner III, Bess Parks

Absent: Don Miner

Comments from the Press or Public

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- a. **SUMMER FARMERS MARKET:** Bob has been updating the vendor list, and has compiled approximately 300 contact names, in hopes that some may be interested in participating at the 2020 summer market. The goal is to expand the number of vendors with varied offerings, i.e. produce, baked goods, wine, cheese, maple, honey, and other specialty items, that will attract more customer traffic. The initial mailing is expected to be ready after January 1<sup>st</sup>. 2020. Bob has requested \$350.00 for the necessary office supplies to complete this mailing, including stamps, envelopes, labels and paper stock for cover letters and vendor contracts. With the Community Garden mailing soon to follow, the supplies will also be used for that program as well, although additional postage may be needed. Paul made the motion to approve \$ 150.00 for postage stamps for the Summer Market mailing, \$ 200.00 for the necessary office supplies i.e. envelopes, labels and paper stock to complete the Summer Farmer's Market and Community Garden mailings. Ron seconded; motion carried 4-0-0. Increasing media advertising (other than face book) was discussed briefly. A determination will be made prior to the 2020 summer market to which form of advertising would best attract customers and offer vendor recognition.
- b. **COMMUNITY GARDEN:** The Community Garden has been put to rest. All lots have been rototilled and seeded with a green crop of rye. Applications and garden rules for the 2020 garden season at Wasserman Park will be mailed after January 1<sup>st</sup>. 2020.
- c. **AGRICULTURE SIGN AT TRANSFER STATION:** Karen Swenson has completed the new sign to be placed at the transfer station. Ron will assist Bob in mounting the sign in December 2019, weather permitting.
- d. **SCHOLARSHIP IDEAS:** Bob asked the board to keep in mind any other ideas to award scholarships. Paul will speak with the Merrimack High School guidance counselor to inquire if there are any graduating students pursuing a career in agriculture.
- e. **UNH CLASSES:** See Attached.
- f. **BUG ALERT:** Ticks are ever present, particularly in fallen leaves, wooded and wetlands. Lady bugs and spiders are now coming in for winter shelter.
- g. **HORSE SENSE:** Winter Horse Hoof Care: Despite the fact that horse owners across the country might be willing it away, winter is here. During winter, it's important to remember the structures that will stand between your horse, and the snowy and icy ground, are his

hooves. Owners should take caution when riding in the cold. There is not a lot of peripheral circulation in horses' legs., so if you're going on a trail ride, use common sense about pounding your horse down the trail. Foot concussion prevention may be compromised during winter. In areas where it gets cold and the ground frozen, horses that are find during summer may get sole bruising. Keep that in mind, whether you need to put them in soft ride boots or, if you're doing conventional shoeing, putting pads on. Snow balling up inside your horse's shoes can also cause sole-related injuries. A variety of pads are available to limit the amount of snow that can pack into the frog and sole areas. There are flat leather pads to keep snow out, urethane rim-type that force snow out, and bubble pads with tennis ball shaped centers that pop snow out. For many, winter is a good time to pull shoes and let the horse go barefoot. Whether shod or barefoot, having a hoof care plan in place ahead of time can help eliminate worries during the deep freeze.

- h. TREASURER'S REPORT: Balances as of October 31, 2019. The Agricultural Commission Farmer's market Fund Account is \$4,922.58. The Community Garden Fund Account is \$1,757.72, with a combined total of \$6,680.30. The Winter Farmer's Market Fund Account is \$165.42.
- i. MINUTES: The minutes were read with Paul making the motion to accept, Ron seconded, motion carried 4-0-0.

No Comments from the Press or Public:

Comments from the Commission: Bob brought to the board's attention, a correction in the cost of the special pesticide license course he would like to attend in the spring on turf and ornamentals. The core study manual is \$120.00, not \$150.00. Exam cost is \$55.00, with the course cost remaining at \$150.00 for a total of \$325.00. Paul made the motion to approve the \$325.00 for Bob to attend the course on turf and ornamentals, Bess seconded, motioned carried. 4-0-0.

The Commission is aware of a board member's neglect of duty, having missed five (5) consecutive meetings without notice. The Board has voted to recommend to the Town Council that the member be removed from the Commission.

Motion to Adjourn: Paul made the motion to adjourn at 7:40 pm. Ron seconded; motion carried 4-0-0.

The next meeting will be held December 11, 2019 at 7:00 pm in the Matthew Thornton Room, East Wing.

Respectfully Submitted

Bess-Arden Parks  
Acting Secretary