

**MERRIMACK AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION
MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 9, 2020**

Meeting called to order by Chairman Bob McCabe at 7:03pm

Present: Ron Miner, Paul Drone, Bess Parks

Comments from the Press or Public:

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. **SUMMER MARKET:** Customer traffic has remained steady throughout the market season. Vendors set up every Wednesday from 3-6 pm, selling a variety of local grown fruits and vegetable; with wine, honey/maple syrup, popcorn, prepared meals, and natural pain relief products also available. The Summer Market will close October 14, 2020.
- b. **COMMUNITY GARDEN:** The Community Garden will officially close on October 11, 2020. Gardeners are reminded to harvest all produce and leave their garden plot clear of fencing or other garden items. Bob will rototill and seed the garden area with a rye grass cover crop after the closing date. Bob has requested \$80.00 dollars to purchase five bags of rye grass seed at \$15.99 per bag, totaling \$ 79.95. Paul made the motion to approve \$80.00 dollars for the purchase of five bags for rye grass seed for a cover crop at the community gardens. Ron seconded, motioned carried 4-0-0.
- c. **MEMORIAL DISCUSSION:** Bob located and purchased a (3 ½ inch diameter) Red Delicious Apple tree from Milligan's Nursery in Chichester, NH for \$405.00 dollars. The tree will be planted at Wasserman Park in memory of Arthur "Pete" and Nancy Gagnon for their years of service to the Town of Merrimack, and support to the Agricultural Commission.
- d. **SCHOLARSHIP:** Paul will look into getting the necessary scholarship paperwork form the Merrimack High School guidance department, to be completed for the \$500.00 dollar scholarship awarded to Holly Stone for her continued studies in environmental science at New England College.
- e. **UNH EXTENSION CLASSES/WEBINARS:** See Attached.
- f. **HORSE SENSE: Changing Seasons:** As we move from fall to winter, hay replaces pasture as the primary forage for many horses, which represents a major change in diet. Changing seasons also means drastic swings in weather conditions and temperature fluctuations. While not scientifically proven, many horse owners and veterinarians believe that there is an association between changes in barometric pressure and incidences of colic episodes in horses. Also, dramatic drop in ambient

temperature often cause a horse to drink less water, while at the same time the horse owners may be increasing the amount of hay to help the horse stay warm. More hay and less water consumption together may contribute to an increased risk of impaction colic. Whether grain or hay, ideally, all major dietary changes should be made gradually to decrease the risk of digestive upset.

- g. TREASURERS REPORT: Balances as of August 31, 2020. The Agricultural Commission Summer Farmer's Market Fund Account is \$4,533.84. The Community Garden Fund Account is \$1,793.21, with a combined total \$6,327.05. The July 8, 2020 Treasurers report will be read at the October 14, 2020 meeting.
- h. MINUTES: Ron made the motion to accept the minutes as read. Paul seconded; motion carried 4-0-0.

No Comments from the Press or Public.

No Comments from the Commission.

Motion to Adjourn: Bess made the motion to adjourn at 7:42pm, Ron seconded, motion carried 4-0-0.

The next meeting of the Merrimack Agricultural Commission will be held October 14, 2020 at 7:00pm in the Matthew Thornton Room, East Wing.

Respectfully Submitted

Bess-Arden Parks
Acting Secretary