

**MERRIMACK AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION
MINUTES
FEBRUARY 10, 2021**

Meeting called order by Chairman Bob McCabe at 6:55pm

Present: Ron Miner, Paul Drone, Bess Parks

Guest: Bill Hines

Comments from the Press or Public

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. **DISCUSSION WITH BILL HINES:** Bill introduced himself and gave the board an overview of his career in horticulture which extended to becoming a master gardener. Bill may be interested in joining the Commission, either as a full time, alternate board member, or volunteering as his time would permit. Bob spoke of the Commission's mission, accomplishments and the need for additional inspiration and workforce in achieving the Commission's goals.
- b. **FARMER'S MARKET 2021:** Bob has mailed over 300 vendor applications, with twelve returned with wrong addresses. The market will again be held at the Vault Storage parking lot on Daniel Webster Highway North. The summer market is held from June to October, (dates to be announced), with anticipation for another successful market season. Flyers for both the farmers market and community garden were given to board member to post throughout the area.
- c. **COMMUNITY GARDEN:** Bob is working on the 2021 garden contract. Applications will be available on the town website or by request (merrimackgardens@gmail.com). Bob asked the board to approve \$75.00 for marker flags, and \$75.00 for twine used to mark the 10x10 garden plots for a total of \$150.00. Approximately 200 stakes are also needed, but source and cost are yet to be determined. Paul made the motion to approve \$150.00; \$75.00 for the purchase for marker flags, and \$75.00 for twine for the garden plots. Ron seconded; motion carried 4-0-0.
- d. **UNH EXTENSION CLASSES AND WEDINARS:** See Attached.
- e. **HORSE SENSE: Conditioning the Senior Horse:** Many people don't realize how much a horse loses fitness when not worked. Older horses also have to deal with age-related changes which include loss of muscle mass. This is worse in horses with Cushing disease, but also occurs with age. Factors include: Decreased bone mineral density, development of central core lesions in tendons, reduced number of cells which produce joint cartilage, and altered heart function. Exercise combats many of the effects of aging. Even arthritis benefits from exercise, the exception being tendon/ligament strength. Condition the older horse in a way that avoids fatigue

and in the moderate range. As he gets more fit, he will be able to do more at that heart rate. Nutritional support is also important with a sound diet with adequate quality protein, balanced minerals, salt, vitamin E and omega -3 as the foundation. Read grain labels and choose the best nutritional option for your horse. Condition your seniors carefully with full-spectrum support, and you will be able to enjoy their experience and wisdom for many years while helping them maintain their best health.

- f. TREASURER'S REPORT: Balances as of January 31, 2021 for the Farmer's Market Fund Account is \$4,004.95. The Community Garden Fund Account is \$971.31, with a combined total of \$4,976.26. The December 31, 2020 balance for the Farmer's Market Fund Account is \$4,352.45. The Community Garden Fund Account is \$1,221.31, with a combined total of \$5,573.76.
- g. MINUTES: The minutes were read with Ron making the motion to accept with the grade average correction for Holly Stone to (3.8), Paul seconded, motion carried 4-0-0.

No Comments from the Press or Public

Comments from the Commission. Bob is seeking a better monthly rate for the porta potty needed for the upcoming Summer Farmers Market.

Motion to Adjourn: Ron made the motion to adjourn at 7:45 p.m., Paul seconded, motioned carried 4-0-0.

The next meeting of the Agricultural Commission will be held March 10, 2021 at 7:00 pm, in the Matthew Thornton Room, East Wind.

Respectfully Submitted

Bess-Arden Parks
Acting Secretary