

**MERRIMACK AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION
MINUTIES
JANUARY 13, 2021**

Meeting called to order by Chairman Bob McCabe at 6:57pm

Present: Ron Miner, Paul Drone, Bess Parks

Comments from the Press or Public

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. **SCHOLARSHIP PHONE INTERVIEW:** The board spoke with Holly Stone, who is studying environment sciences at New England College in Biddeford, Maine. Holly reports that she is doing well in her studies, maintaining a 3.8 average.
- b. **NEW IDEAS:** Bob asked the board to continue seeking ways to attract new board members.
- c. **ANNUAL:** Bob presented the Agricultural Commission's annual report for review. With corrections, Bob will submit the Commission's report to be included in the Town of Merrimack's Annual Report for 2020.
- d. **MAILINGS FOR FARMER'S MARKET AND COMMUNITY GARDEN:** With revisions, the vendor contract for the Farmer's market will be ready to be mailed to potential vendors by the end of January, 2021. The Community Garden application will be mailed upon request only, as potential gardeners are able to complete the application on the town's website. Vendors needed for the 2021 market include, maple syrup, meat, fish, along with additional vegetable/fruit and other farm produce. For additional information, contact Bob at bobmccabe@comcast.net
- e. **UNH EXTENSION CLASSES AND WEBINARS:** See Attached
- f. **HORSE SENSE:** Keeping Water Troughs Thawed with or Without a Heater. Here are a few ideas that might help. 1. Locate your trough for the maximum sun exposure. 2. Insulate. This helps keep the exterior cold out and interior warmth of the water in. 3. Place a float in the trough. This helps keep the surface of the water moving as it bobs about making it more difficult to freeze. Fill a two-liter bottle two-thirds full with water and 1-2 cups of salt dissolved. Seal tightly and place in trough to help the water from freezing. There is enough air in the bottle for it to float and salt water freezes at a lower temperature than the water in the trough, so the water keeps moving. 4. Bury your trough. The heat from the earth helps keep the water from freezing. Another option is by place a layer of manure under the trough. Composting manure generates heat, and with several inches thick, it will help warm the trough as it breaks down. Ultimately, you might need to break down and heat your trough. Whatever option you choose, follow manufacturer's

instructions to install safely. Keep cord and wires out of the way with no connections near water.

- g. TREASURER'S REPORT: To be read at the February 10, 2021 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:

Comments from the Commission: Bob inquired if either Ron or Paul would be available to help set up and take down the farmer's market on two or possible three times during the market season when he is unable to attend. A schedule will be worked out between Ron and Paul to accommodate Bobs request.

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

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

Respectfully Submitted

Bess-Arden Parks
Acting Secretary