

**MERRIMACK AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION
MINUTES
MAY 12, 2021**

Meeting called to order by Chairman Bob McCabe at 7:17 pm

Present: Ron Miner III, Paul Drone, Bess Parks

Absent: Guest Speaker Bill Hines

Comments from the Press or Public

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. **FARMERS MARKET:** Bob has received only one vendor application for 2021 summer farmers' market. Due to this circumstance, Bob is recommending the Commission disband the summer farmers market at this time. Over the years the farmers market has provided area residents with seasonal fruits/vegetable, baked goods, wine, jellies, honey/maple products and a variety of other offerings. Ron made the motion to disband the Merrimack Farmers Market, Paul seconded, motion carried 4-0-0.
- b. **COMMUNITY GARDEN:** Forty-nine plots have been sold to date. Bob has placed a map at the kiosk with plot numbers and names of renters. Garden information and notices will also be available at the kiosk location. The water has been turned on. There are still plots available at \$ 10.00 for Merrimack residents, and \$ 15.00 for non-residents. Bob can be reached at bobmccabe254@gmail.com.
- c. **SCHOLARSHIP DISCUSSION:** Paul brought to the board's attention that his motion in April 14, 2021 minutes for the donation dollar amount of \$2,050.00 for 4-H allocations was incorrect. Paul's motion should have read "an appropriation of \$2,550.00 to be allocated as follows: One Thousand (\$ 1,000.00) toward the educational fund for those 4-H members attending State and National Conferences. One thousand (\$1,000) to defray the cost of 4-H members attending the Sheep/Goat day/weekend or participating in the one of three science kits being developed. The choices being Animal Science, Plant Science with Bees and Bugs, and one that is just Science. Jolee Chase, UNH Educator will administer the funds for each project at her discretion. Five Hundred Fifty (\$550.00) would be payable to Milford Blue Seal, 274 Elm Street, Milford, NH 03055, for eleven \$50.00 gift certificates to be awarded to the 4-H winners in their divisions at the 2021 Hillsborough Agricultural Fair in New Boston, NH. Ron seconded the corrected motion with motion carried 4-0-0.
- d. **NOTES FROM MASTER GARDENER:** Bill Hines was unable, and will present his program at a future meeting.

- e. HORSE SENSE: Flies and Insect Defense: Flies and biting insects can ruin your horse's day. Besides being annoying, their bites also spread parasites and disease. Fly control products can help reduce the pest population and keep your horse comfortable in the barn, stable or in the pasture. Pestered flies include horse flies, house, face and horn flies, along with stable flies, gnats, fleas, ticks, chiggers, lice, mites and other bugs with really long names. With basic maintenance and the right pest control products, you can keep pests to a minimum. Start by taking care of manure. Keeping the stable area clean will also help reduce odor, attract fewer flies and their breeding nearby. Move manure away from the stable area. Keep your horse's feed inaccessible to critters. Sometimes the most damaging, even fatal pests are the ones we can't see. It is advised to have your veterinarian do a fecal check before using wormers. Should your horse have worms, they will know the best products to treat with, or if your horse actually needs treating. Because flies are inevitable, maintenance won't be enough. A variety of pest control products could include, fly masks, sheets, repellents and sprays, feed through fly control, fly predators or homemade formulas. Taking these steps won't eradicate these pests completely, but you'll have a cleaner barn and happier horse.
- f. TREASURER'S REPORT: To be read at the June 9, 2021 meeting.
- g. MINUTES: With Paul's motion correction on agenda item "Scholarship Discussion" regarding donation appropriations for 4-H and Blue Seal, Ron made the motion to accept the April 14, 2021 minutes. Paul seconded; motion carried 4-0-0.

No Comments from the Press or Public:

Comments from the Commission: The Board discussed presenting the Currier family with a commemorative plaque in memory of Eber and Trudy Currier. Eber and Trudy were the driving force in establishing the Agricultural Commission and keeping agricultural pursuits available to all Merrimack residents. Ron will get the information regarding plaque style and cost, including cost of lettering. Ron will report his findings at the June 9, 2021 meeting.

Bob weeded around the apple tree at Wasserman Park in memory of Pete and Nancy Gagnon. Paul will take care of placing new wood chips around the base of the tree for weed control.

Motion to Adjourn: Ron made the motion to adjourn at 7:35 pm. Paul seconded; motion carried 4-0-0.

The next meeting of the Agricultural Commission will be held June 9, 2021 at 7:00 pm., in the Matthew Thornton Room, East Wing.

Respectfully Submitted

Bess-Arden Parks
Acting Secretary