

Merrimack Agricultural Commission Minutes for August 12, 2015

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Bob McCabe at 7 p.m. Present were Bob McCabe, Eber Currier, Bess Parks, and Don Miner.

- a) **Farmer's Market Update** - There were 23 vendors at today's Farmer Market. A very good day. We have 30 vendors signed up in all. Suggestion by Chairman that the rates increase for next year from \$100. To \$125. That decision to be discussed at a later meeting.
- b) **Discussion of Vendor for Cancer Walk** - The Commission will probably not accept this vendor as it is not agriculturally related and senior care is funded by Medicare or Senior Care privately.
- c) **Community Garden Update** – Woodchucks are the major issue at the Garden right now plus a few zucchini have disappeared!
- d) **UNH Extension Classes** – There are several meetings planned for the Month – on canning and preserving food up in Canterbury at Shaker village, a weekend meeting on N. E. Organic farming at UMass in Andover, MA on Friday, August 21 through the 23, 2015, and others listed on the N.H. website at extension.unh.edu or by calling Bob McCabe at 759-2737.
- e) **Bug Alert** - Corn bugs and potato bugs are ones to be on alert for right now. Ticks are still the ones to be very vigilant about – long pants, long sleeves, socks pulled over pant legs and check yourself every day.
- f) **Update on Kinder Morgan Project** – There are so many towns and many citizens working to keep up with the progress on this project. Farm Bureau is working on a meeting with K-M at the Farm Bureau Office in Concord with all the farmer's in the state. FERC is having a meeting soon at the Radisson in Nashua. Because the final route has not been set yet, they are not giving out information about where the compressor building, or buildings will be positioned. Our Town administrator and Town Council are working diligently to maintain our farmlands and protect our public lands and wetlands.
- g) **Horse Sense** – Bess gave her usual presentation on Horse information. This time it was about the Horse Meeting and Agricultural Committee in D.C. Jay Hickey is president of the Horse Council. There were 8 speakers at the forum talking about the 2017 agricultural Survey and about the Equine Disease Information Center. The USDA is very involved in the Agricultural Commission. And horses were the John Deere's of old!
- h) **Treasurer's Report** – Farmer's Market balance as of 7-31-2015 is \$3,860.22 Community Garden's as of 7-31-2015 is \$2,888.66 making a total of \$6,748.88.
- i) **Minutes** - Review draft minutes from August 12, 2015. Eber moved to accept, Bess seconded. Vote was 4-0-0.

Comments from the Commissioners: Bob McCabe says Park and Rec's flag is up now. No light. Two more members signed at the Community Garden. Elyse Morano now has two horses, the Brindle and her old horse - thinking of moving to have more room to keep horses at home.

Eber Currier received a call from Ted Sartelle of Hillsborough County Farm Bureau about raffle to support Young Farmers. Don Miner moved to allow \$50.00 for gift certificate from Merrimack Agricultural Commission. Bess Parks seconded. Vote was 4-0-0.

Next meeting is on September 9th, 2015 at 7 p.m.

Bess moved to adjourn, Don seconded. Vote was 4-0-0. Adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Trudy Currier, Acting Secretary