

**MERRIMACK AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION
MINUTES
JULY 14, 2021**

Meeting called to order by Vice Chairman Ron Miner III at 6:55 pm

Present: Bess Parks, Paul Drone

Absent: Guest speaker Bill Hines

Comments from the Press or Public

New Business:

- a. **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN:** Bob McCabe has informed the Commission he is unable to continue his duties as Chairman. Ron Miner III as Vice Chairman has been asked by the Commission if he would be willing to step up to the Chairman position. Ron indicated he would be willing to accept this position. Paul made the motion to accept Ron Miner the III as Chairman of the Agricultural Commission. Bess seconded; motion carried 3-0-0.
- b. **EQUESTRIAN CENTER GOFFSTOWN DONATION:** Ron asked for a vote to appropriate \$ 1,200 dollars to the UnReach Therapeutic Equestrian Center, 153 Paige Road in Goffstown, NH 03045. The donation would benefit adults and children with disabilities to experience mounted and unmounted equine assisted programs. Bess made the motion to donate \$ 1,200 dollars to the UpReach Therapeutic Equestrian Center. Paul seconded; motion carried 3-0-0.
- c. **EBER and TRUDY CURRIER MEMORIAL:** With consideration, the Commission has decided the wood plaque with craved apple tree and inscription would be the preferred choice as a memorial to founding members Eber and Trudy Currier. The cost of the completed plaque is \$ 300.00 dollars, and should take a month to six weeks to complete. The craver is local artisan Devin Gill and Associates. Dedication will be at a later date. The other option was a commercially made plaque with clock and inscription. Paul made the motion to approve the \$ 300.00 dollars for the memorial plaque in memory of Eber and Trudy Currier, Bess seconded, motion carried 3-0-0.
- d. **HOLLY STONE SCHOLARSHIP:** Merrimack resident and graduate of Merrimack High School, Holly is continuing her studies in environmental science at New England College in Biddeford, Maine. Holly has a 3.8- 3.9 average. Holly has applied and has been accepted by the Commission to receive the annual scholarship for the 2021-2022 school year. With no other applicants, the board discussed increasing the scholarship d to \$1,000.00 dollars payable directly to New England College for the start of the September 2021 term. Paul made the motion to approve \$ 1,000.00 dollar scholarship to Holly Stone for her continued studies in environmental science, payable to New England College. Bess seconded; motion carried 3-0-0.
- e. **HORSE SENSE: Horse Safety:** There are basic horse handling guidelines designed to enhance safety in the saddle and at the barn. They are important for everyone, but especially novices and children. 1. Always speak to your horse before approaching to touching him/her. Always from the front, never approach directly from the rear. 2. Wear appropriate

Approved: August 11, 2021

footwear i.e., boots, hard toed shoes. 3. Tie securely, but with quick release knots, or have someone hold with a lead rope. 4. Work close to your horse, by standing near his shoulder or haunches or passing behind your horse to avoid being stepped on or possibly kicked. 5. When leading a horse, walk beside him, not ahead or behind. 6. When turning out to pasture, turn the horse around facing the direction from which you just entered. Then release the lead shank or remove the halter or bridle. Avoid letting a horse bolt away from you when released. 7. Know and use the two basic knots. A quick release knot used whenever you tie a horse with a halter rope. This knot allows you to release the horse quickly if the horse gets into trouble. A bowline should not be used when tying a rope around the horse's neck. The loop will not tighten up and the knot will not slip. Tie your horse with a rope long enough to allow comfortable movement, but short enough to avoid becoming tangled or getting a foot over the rope. Never tie your horse by the reins as he may pull back and break the reins, or injure his mouth. Always use a halter. Good habits prevent accidents.

- f. **TREASURER'S REPORT:** No June treasurer's report submitted. However, the forwarding combined balance of the Farmers Market Fund Account and Community Garden Fund Account of \$ 2, 507.24, would be increased only by approximately \$ 30.00 from Community Garden rental payments. Bringing the approximate total to \$ 2,537.24 respectfully.
- g. **MINUTES:** Paul made the motion to accept the minutes as read. Bess seconded; motion carried 3-0-0.

No Comments from the press or public:

Comments from the Commission: Gardeners have reported woodchucks and rabbits a continued problem at the gardens. Traps will be set up to help trap and relocate. The Commission welcomes Ron Miner as Chairman.

Motion to Adjourn: Paul made the motion to adjourn at 7:39 pm. Ron seconded; motion carried 3-0-0.

The next meeting the of Agricultural Commission will be held August 11, 2021 at 7:00 pm, in the Matthew Thornton Room, East Wind.

Respectfully Submitted

Bess-Arden Parks
Acting Secretary