

Approved: September 8, 2021

MERRIMACK AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION

MINUTES

AUGUST 11, 2021

Meeting called to order by Chairman Ron Miner III at 7:10 pm.

Present: Bess Parks

Absent: Paul Drone, Guest speaker Bill Hines

Comments from the Press or Public:

New Business:

a. MASTER GARDENER REPORT: Bill Hines was unable to attend meeting.

b. HORSE SENSE: Trailering Safely Tips: Trailering should be done with two people if at all possible. Be sure the ground area behind and around the truck or trailer affords safe footing before loading or unloading. Place chocks behind the wheels to keep the trailer steady as the horse enters. Remove tack or other equipment before loading. Use a halter and sturdy cotton lead shank. Nylon shanks can be dangerous if your horse pulls back. Always wrap your horse's legs; bandaging extending over the coronary band onto the hoof and covering the heel area. Secure the butt chain or bar as soon as the horse is in the trailer and always before tying the horse. Use care when reaching for the chain. Opinion vary on hauling or horse tied or loose. If you tie, allow a sufficient length of rope so the horse can move his head for balance and comfort, but keep it tight enough that his cannot get in trouble or get to the horse next to him. Always tie with a quick-release knot, or use panic snaps on the ties. When hauling only one horse in a two-horse trailer, load the horse on the driver's side. When loading two horses, load the heavier horse on the driver's side. Using rubber mats and additional bedding of choice will reduce concussion on the horses legs. Always speak to a horse that is in a truck or trailer before attempting to handle it. Never undo the butt chain or bar before you untie your horse at its head. The horse may try backing out as soon as the tailgate is down. Check you trailer regularly for rotting or weakened floor boards, rusted and weakened door hinges and cracked hitch welds. Before heading out, double check all the connections (lights, brakes, hitch and safety chains). Be sure doors are secured. Drive carefully, starting, stopping and making turns slowly. At your destination, use caution to back the horse out of the trailer straight and slightly toward the center ramps, so he doesn't catch a leg in the door springs. If there are two horses in the trailer, have someone stand by the head of the second horse while the first one is backed off, so that he doesn't think that he is free to back off also. Walk the horse to restore circulation and allow to lower his head to help clear his lungs. before putting him in a stall, especially after a long haul. When the trailer is disconnected, and parked, be sure to place chocks behind the wheels. Never load a horse in an "unhitched trailer".

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- c. TREASURER'S REPORT: June and July 2021 treasurer's unavailable at this time.
- d. MINUTES: The minutes were read, and with typing errors to be corrected under Horse Sense, line 7., Bess made the motion to accept the minutes as read, Ron seconded, 2-0-0.

No Comments from the Press or Public:

Comments from the Commission: Ron was approached by the executive director of the Franklin Savings Bank located at 1 Dobson Way, in the Merrimack Village Center, Merrimack, NH. The bank is interested in starting a farmer's market at the Dobson Way location, and inquired if the commission could be of assistance with vendor information. It will be suggested that they visit and speak with the market managers at established markets in the area for guidance. The commission will help as needed if the bank decides to move forward with this venture.

The Commission would like to thank Bob McCabe, past Chairman for his dedication of time spent in making the Commission as successful as it has become. The Community Garden is the result of his vision and labor in making gardening available to those without the land, but wanting to grow their own produce. The Summer Farmer's Market flourished under his direction, with many hours spent setting up and disassembling the market each Wednesday from June to October. Many hours were also spent doing necessary paperwork involved with both the community garden and farmers market; plus being prepared each month to chair the monthly meetings. Bob was a strong advocate in supporting our local 4-H and future farmers with donations made each year to support their educational programs. A scholarship fund was also established to support Merrimack students furthering their educations in an agricultural related field. Many accomplishments to look back on and be proud off. Thank you Bob, we wish you all the best.

Motion to Adjourn: Bess made the motion to adjourn at 7:45 pm, Ron seconded, 2-0-0.

The next meeting of the Agricultural Commission will be held September 8th, 2021 at 7:00 pm, in the Matthew Thornton Room, East Wing.

Respectfully Submitted

Bess-Arden Parks

Acting Secretary