

**MERRIMACK AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION
MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 8, 2021**

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

Present: Paul Drone, Bess Parks

Absent: Bill Hines, Master Gardener

Comments from the Press or Public

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. MASTER GARDENER REPORT:** Bill Hines was unable to attend the meeting.
- b. HORSE SENSE:** Fall-Health Checklist. Fall is an ideal time to perform important veterinary, nutrition, forage and pasture to-dos to help keep your horse healthy and sound. 1. Prevention is the key. Keep your horse on a regular health-maintenance program. 2. Vaccinate. Follow your veterinarian recommendations for your location. 3. Control parasites. As summer and fall grasses get shorter, parasite loads tend to increase. Work with your vet, and use fecal egg counts to design a fall deworming program that works, yet decreases the risk of creating drug-resistant parasites. 4. Schedule dental. Healthy teeth and gums will help the horse to chew properly, so he can make the most of the nutrients in his feed to sustain him over the winter. 5. Practice colic prevention. If the horse does not drink enough water, his digestive system slows down, putting him at risk for colic. Feed two tablespoons of (loose) salt each day to keep your horse's sodium level, which will keep him drinking and keep up his gut movement. Evaluate your horse's condition and increase or decrease caloric intake as recommended by your veterinarian. 6. Assess Winter Forage, and think ahead so your horse will enjoy optimal forage over the winter and nutrient-rich pasture grass when spring arrives. Let pastures rest to strengthen the grass quality in spring. 7. Shoe or leave barefoot? Winter shoes will add safety for both horse and rider on slippery surfaces if being ridden or driven. If your horse will not be used, being left barefoot will allow the feet to rest and the horse should manage nicely under normal conditions.
- c. TREASURER'S REPORT:** June, July or August treasurer's report not submitted at this time.
- d. MINUTES:** The August 11, 2021 minutes were read with Ron making the motion to accept, Bess seconded, motion carried 2-0-0.

No Comments from the Press:

Comments from the Commission: Gardeners are reminded that their garden plot(s) needs to be cleared of all produce, fencing, or decorative items before October 10th. There is a non-refundable fee for gardeners failing to leave their plot(s) in good order for winterizing. Ron reported that donation checks for both the Eber and Trudy Currier memorial plaque and UpReach Therapeutic Riding Center have been mailed.

Motion to Adjourn: Paul made the motion to adjourn at 7:04 pm, Bess seconded, motion carried 3—0-0.

The next meeting of the Merrimack Agricultural Commission will be October 13th 2021 at 7:00 in the Matthew Thornton Room, East Wing.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bess-Arden Parks
Acting Secretary