

Merrimack Agricultural Commission
Minutes
January 8, 2014

Bob McCabe, chairman, called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. on January 8, 2014 in the Matthew Thornton Room, East Wing. Present were Cindy Warhola, Bess Parks, Eber Currier, and Bob McCabe.

New Business:

- a) **Community Garden Rules** – There should be information by the January 15, 2014 on Merrimack TV. Bob will also be speaking in the Klump Room downstairs at the library at 7:00 p.m. on March 11, 2014.
- b) **Results from Farmer's Market Survey.** Vendors had several concerns. They feel some of the vendors are bringing too many things to sell other than their own crops. They miss the Fish lady. The vendors at the Farmer's Market would like more on-site contact with the Agricultural Commission members. They would like the season to be extended through mid-October. And perhaps a more visible lot for their weekly displays to be seen from the road.

Bob and John Lastowka did send a letter to the owner's of the Shaw's parking lot on D.W. Highway but they have not responded yet.
- c) There will be a Direct Marketing Conference in Greenland on February 18, 2014. The fee is \$45.00 for an all day session. Cindy moved to fund Bob's way to this conference, Bess seconded. Vote was 4-0-0.
- d) The Extension Service has scheduled a few educational courses. In January there will be three classes on raising goats. Times are January 11, 18 and 25, 2014.
- e) The Farm and Forest Exposition will be held at the Radison in Manchester on February 6 and 7, 2014.
- f) Bob McCabe and John Lastowka have made out the Annual Report of last year's events of the Merrimack Agricultural Commission. This is the fifth year of the annual report.
- g) Reviewed the minutes of December 11, 2013. Accepted with a couple of changes. Bess moved to accept, Eber seconded. Vote was 4-0-0.

Eber moved to make \$250.00 available to Bob for printing costs of the Community Gardens, such as schedules and new rules for gardeners. Bess seconded. Vote was 4-0-0.

Comments from the Commissioners: Bob talked about insulating your bee hives in this extreme cold weather so your bees will survive the winter.

The Agricultural Commission is still in need of more members. The phone number is on the advertising sign post at the Landfill. Any interested people who are farming in Merrimack can call

for information. The public is always welcome at the monthly meetings of the Agricultural Commission.

Eber said that the Conservation Commission is having a presentation by Attorney Upton on the Right to Know Law on Tuesday, January 21, 2014 at 7:30 p.m.; Wednesday, February 5, 2014 at 7:30 p.m.; and a final one on Tuesday, February 11, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. Bob and Eber will be at the meeting on February 5, 2014. All are welcome.

The next meeting of the Agricultural Commission will be held on February 12, 2014. There will be a working meeting from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. and the regular meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m.

Cindy moved to adjourn, Bess seconded. Vote was 4-0-0. Adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Trudy Currier (Acting Secretary)