

Merrimack Agricultural Commission
Minutes
February 12, 2014

Chairman Bob McCabe called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Present were Cindy Warhola, Eber Currier, Bess Parks, and Bob McCabe. Pete Gagnon arrived at 7:12 p.m.

- a) **Farmer's Market Update** – Cindy sent out 2014 applications to previous vendors. We talked about placing an ad in the Union Leader, etc. Vendor pays \$75.00 for the whole season. Thirteen regular vendors amounts to \$975. We do have \$1,196.00 in Farmer's Market and \$1,695.00 in the Community Garden account. Cindy moved to make available \$1,000 - \$600.00 for payment for a Farmer's Market Manager and \$400.00 for advertising. Bess seconded. Vote was 5-0-0 to accept that motion. Bob has already an ad in the Market Bulletin – free for subscribers. Eber will put in the ad for another issue in the near future.

The Commission will vote on revised changes such as artisan crafts, vendor's dogs on leash, and other concerns of vendors at the next meeting on March 12, 2014.

- b) **Community Garden Education Class.** There will be a meeting in the Klump Room at the Merrimack Library at 7:00 p.m. on March 11, 2014. Bob McCabe will lead a discussion on the 2014 Gardener's agreement and answer any questions for new or interested people who would like to know more about becoming a gardener.
- c) **Farm & Forest Expo Class.** Bob McCabe and Wendy McShane attended this event on February 7, 2014 at the Radisson in Manchester. We listened to a very interesting lecture by Steve Cilly (the Bear Guy). We also learned many other facts about the farming industry from all of the other vendors and organizations that were in attendance.
- d) **UNH Bug Alert.** Karen Bennett will be speaking on the Emerald Ash Borer in Concord on February 18, 2014 and in Portsmouth on February 25, 2014.
- e) **Education classes.** One on grafting tomatoes is coming up soon. The one on Right to Know was cancelled because of the weather – will now be held on March 5, 2014 at the Town Hall. There will also be a meeting on direct marketing in Greenland on February 18, 2014.
- f) **Membership Drive.** The Agricultural Commission still needs more volunteers – anyone who is interested in keeping farming alive and active, please give us a call at 759-2737. That's Chairman Bob McCabe's number and he would be glad to answer any questions you might have.
- g) **Treasurer's Report.** Bess Parks had no new figures for this month but should have by next meeting. There is still \$1,196.00 in the Farmer's Market account and \$1,695.00 in the Community Garden account.

Review draft minutes from January 8, 2014. Cindy moved to accept and Bess seconded, Vote was 4-0-1.

There were no comments from the press or public.

Comments from the Commissioners. Bess spoke a little bit on the blueberry situation in New Hampshire. Also she started to track a couple of bills that people might want to keep track of at the State House – Related to Equine – HB 354; and Related to Agricultural Tourism – RSA-21-4. Bess also has little night camera – spotted a fox, raccoons, coyote and a fisher cat in back yard. Bob is working to clear a couple of acres of land to raise Northern Cottontails. He is working with the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Milford to accomplish this. Pete is getting ready to start some tomato and pepper seeds in the greenhouse. Lastowka's Vineyard – There will be a pruning demonstration on March 29, 2014.

Cindy moved to adjourn, Pete seconded. Vote was 5-0-0. Adjourned at 7:43 p.m. Next meeting on March 12, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Trudy Currier (Acting Secretary)