

Approved: May 8, 2013

Merrimack Agricultural Commission

Approved Minutes

March 13, 2013

Chairman John Lastowka called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. Present were Bob McCabe, Cindy Warhola, Eber Currier, and Bess Parks.

John reported on the progress of vendors paying their dues. Five people have responded so far. Three have paid their yearly remittance and the other two will as soon as their insurance work is completed. Four of these vendors are previous tenants and one of them is a new one. The season will be starting June 9, 2013 from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00p.m.

Bess Parks gave the treasurer's report. Balance was \$2,137.00, spent \$46.00 for postage, leaving a balance of \$2,091.00. Then we took in \$225.00 from Ledgewood Farms, Paradise Farms, and Gunther's Cookies, leaving a total for \$2,316.00 for the Farmer's Market and \$1,450.00 for the Community Garden. We received a dues notice from Farm Bureau. Eber moved to have the Town pay those dues for us. Cindy Warhola seconded. Vote was 5-0-0. John will drop off the bill to Paul Micali tomorrow.

Bob McCabe will make the initial mailing of the Community Garden trifold folder to 70 people and leave some at the public library and the town offices. Bess and Eber took a few to be available at their businesses. In addition, Peter LaFauci took some to distribute at his son's workplace. Bob is also sending in a soil sample to UNH Extension service to be tested so he will know if he needs to add anything to the soil this year so the gardener's will have good soil for their crops. He also said it is a good idea to start your plants inside so they will be hardened off when you put them in the garden site. Our signs need to have new hours on them – rather than spend a considerable amount to have new signs made up this year, we will try to make easy fixes for now and try to get creative with Velcro or some other means to change the signs. We may be able to patch the one sign for \$45.00. The banners are the ones that we hope to come with a convenient solution.

There will be a pruning day at Lastowka's Maplegate Farm on March 30, 2013 from 9:00 AM to 2:30 PM. George Hamilton, Extension Educator, and Steven Gatcomb, a professional pruner, and John Nute, a Forestry Specialist will be conducting the training sessions and answering any questions that maybe asked. This is John Lastowka's Farm and he will have coffee and light refreshments at lunchtime. They will be pruning Apple trees and Peach trees in the a.m. and some berries. In the afternoon, at 1 p.m., they will be pruning grapevines. Everyone is welcome and it is a free event to the public.

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Minutes from February 13, 2013 were read and accepted with a couple of changes. Cindy moved to accept and Bess seconded. Vote was 5-0-0.

Don Miner did not come to the meeting but he did talk to John on the phone and John dropped some information about farming off at his home for him to read. Peter LaFauci asked what is expected of an alternate as he is seriously thinking about joining the Agriculture Commission as soon as his schedule will allow him to do that. He was raised in Boston's North End with 400 or so tomato plants in his back yard as his Dad sold vegetables at the Boston Market. It sounds like he will have some good advice for our gardeners.

Next meeting will be April 10, 2013.

Bess moved to adjourn, Bob seconded. Vote was 5-0-0. Adjourned at 7:58.

Respectfully submitted,

Trudy Currier (acting secretary)