

Merrimack Agricultural Commission  
Draft Minutes  
July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2013

Chairman Bob McCabe called the meeting to order at 7:07pm.

Present: Bob McCabe, John Lastowka, Cindy Warhola, Bess Parks, Heather

John reported that he felt the annual report he and Bob presented to the Town Council was a success. The Council was very pleased with the review and progress of the Ag Commission.

Bob said 81 community garden plots were rented for the season, and produce starting to mature for harvesting. The lawn mower is now available to keep the pathways mowed, and water consumption is down due to the frequent rainfall.

John reported that woodchucks were becoming a problem to the gardeners, and he called in a professional exterminator Paul Estey to trap and remove. John said that it is illegal to transport wildlife to other areas to be a nuisance to others and their inability to adapt to new surroundings causing death.

It was voted to pay Paul Estey, \$275.00 for his service. 4-0-0

Bess read the treasurers report. The balance as of Jun 30, 2013 for the Farmers Market was \$2, 272.00. Community Gardens \$1,704.00 with a total of \$3,976.00.

Bob was pleased to announce that Eber Currier has chosen to become a permanent member of the commission, signing up for three more years.

Heather talked about the progress with the flyers and postcards. The design is eye catching with fruits, vegetables, flowers and pastries representing the various vendors at the Farmers Market.

Bob talked about the UNH bug alert and in particular, leaf curl affecting tomatoes. The thought it that this is the plants defense due to the recent wet weather conditions, but should not affect the produce.

There are many new disease resistant tomato varieties, developed from Heirloom and newer plant stock available to growers. A list can be found on the UNH web site.

Bob also mentioned there is study on the various borers affecting corn, squash and pumpkins, and that he received information from a Vineyard in Sanbornton that was looking for any large amounts of fruits and berries for their wine production.

The minutes were read and accepted. 4-0-0.

John had a booklet entitled "In NH" published by Granite Hill Publishing. It lists all the Farmers Markets throughout the State, but is not in circulation in our area. While it is too late to have the Farmers Market listed this season, future advertising will be discussed at a later meeting.

Bob distributed the list of dates and manes on cone pick up duty at the end of market day, and will change the sign at the transfer station.

Cindy made a motion to adjourn, 2<sup>nd</sup> by John, all in favor, with meeting adjourned at 7:37p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Acting Secretary Merrimack Agricultural Commission

Bess-Arden Parks