

Merrimack Agricultural Commission

Draft Minutes

September 11, 2013

Chairman Bob McCabe called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Present were Bob McCabe, Eber Currier, and Bess Parks.

Farmer's Market : Vendors have asked if we could extend our closing date for two weeks as they still have crops to sell. Bess Parks moved to extend the season for two more weeks, which would mean the Market will be open September 25th and October 2nd. Eber seconded it and the final vote was 3-0-0. The secretary will get in touch with the local paper to see if they will print a news release letting the townspeople know that they can continue shopping at the Farmer's Market for two more weeks.

Community Garden : The garden plots will be cleaned up by September 30th so Bob can rotate the soil and plant winter rye. The Commission is hoping that all the gardeners had a happy gardening experience and will join us again next year. Any leftover vegetables can be donated to a soup kitchen.

Treasurer's report: Paul Micali sent Bess figures today of: \$2,395.12 for the Farmer's Market and \$1,196.26 for the Community Garden. Some expenditures are not in yet. Next meeting should have up-to date figures.

Advertising request – the news release in the Merrimack Journal should be good advertising for these last two weeks.

Diseases, insects, and pest alerts for New Hampshire : Bob had common smut on his corn, which was a black dust on the outside of the husk but didn't seem to affect the cobs themselves. Also tomatoes were affected by a blight this year. The heirloom tomatoes seem to be making a comeback and they are more resistant to disease.

Fall Harvest: Tomatoes and peppers need to be protected from the frost but the cabbages should be okay. Squash, onions and potatoes can be protected in barrels of sand for longer lasting fresh vegetables.

Minutes of August 14, 2013 were accepted with a couple of minor corrections. Vote was 3-0-0.

Got a nice picture of the Hillsborough County 4-H Horse Team.

Comments from the Commissioners: Bob McCabe and Wendy McShane went to the Bedford Farmer's Market. There were 33 vendors, a strolling Minstrel, caterers, a lady who spends 20 hours a week keeping their news on facebook !

Our membership drive continues. We do need more volunteers. Next meeting will be on Oct. 9th at 7 p.m. Bess moved to adjourn, Eber seconded. Vote was 3-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Trudy Currier, Acting Secretary

DRAFT