

**MERRIMACK AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION**  
**Final Minutes**  
**November 13, 2013**

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

- A. Fall closing of Community Gardens at Wasserman Park: Bob has roto-tilled the soil, and with volunteers Wendy McShane, Tom Hanlon, and Loretta Jackson, cleaned up the trash, winterized the water system, turned off the water, left the white bulletin board there for now. Tom Hanlon will get us a price for straw bales for mulching.
- B. Discussion of 2014 garden contract and tri-fold: sometime in January or February, Bob will have a program on channel 20 explaining the program agreements to the upcoming gardeners for the spring planting. There will be a small fee for those who do not clean up on their own. In 2013, there was a problem with woodchucks so the commission paid \$275.00 for someone to trap them. There will be a mandatory winter session for all 2014 gardeners sometime in March – dates to be announced at a later date.
- C. Discussion of vendor evaluation survey for Farmer's Market: Survey will be sent out to all the 2013 vendors to fill out and return. Cindy moved to buy a roll of 100 Forever stamps to be used for this chore. Bess seconded. Vote was 5-0-0 to approve.
- D. Educational opportunities for fall and winter 2013/2014: a program about the University of New Hampshire website will be held in Goffstown on November 20, 2013. George Hamilton, educator for the University, will be leading the program and Rich Bonano will be the speaker. There will be a meeting of the Extension Service in Boscowan, N.H. on Monday, December 2, 2013 running from 6:30 until 8:30 p.m. There was also a corn class today in Cheshire, N.H.
- E. Food Service Modernization Act (FSMA) has extended the comment period. This will greatly affect all small farmers by the year 2016. Sanitation process is a concern so it is important for all N.H. farmers to keep in touch with their legislators and N.H. Farm Bureau head, Rob Johnson. All farmers should have received information about this via e-mail or regular mail, or even a phone call. Check your mail.
- F. Winter orchard mice damage: they can kill your fruit trees if they eat a ring around the tree bark. You need to do away with them. Keep your orchard floor clean so there is nothing for them to eat and plant some Phosphate pellets in little tunnels around the trees.
- G. USDA report on honey bee stressors: Sevin is highly toxic to bees. That's the reason fruit growers do not spray while the hives are in the fields pollinating the blossoms.

- H. **Reminder that pesticide renewals are due. You must have earned enough credits in training classes to obtain your new license.**
- I. **Treasurer's report: Bess handed out a copy of the latest report – as of 10/31/2013. Balance in Farmer's Market is \$1,996.63. Balance in Community Garden is \$1,647.25. Making a balance of \$3,643.88 for the total Agricultural Commission. The Commission does get a stipend every year from the Town of \$200.00.**
- J. **Review draft minutes from Oct. 9, 2013: There were a few corrections- Cindy moved to accept them with corrections, Bess seconded. Vote was 5-0-0. Bob McCabe said he would make the changes and get them in to Becky.**

**No comments from press.**

**Comments from the public – Peter Fauci said he saw a farmer's market stop functioning because there were no more farmers products there – just other vendors. He thinks we should not allow vendors who are not directly related to farming.**

**Comments from commissioners: Bob McCabe sent a thank you to the Parks & Recreation Department for allowing us to use their land for the Community Garden. John Lastowka sent a thank you letter to Town Manager Eileen Cabanel because she allowed the town Highway Department to store our cones and signs in their facility and deliver them to the F.M. site every Wednesday afternoon. Bob also took the sign down from the tower – it's still in good condition for next year.**

**Cindy moved to adjourn, Bess seconded. Vote was 5-0-0. Adjourned at 8:08 p.m. Next meeting on December 11, 2013.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Trudy Currier**