

**MERRIMACK AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION
FINAL MINUTES
DECEMBER 11, 2013**

Chairman Bob McCabe called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. Present were Bob McCabe, Bess Parks, Eber Currier and Trudy Currier as Acting Secretary.

Bob gave a quick rundown of all the informational meetings in the state for farmers or would be farmers.

December 11th, 2013: Feed clinic in Haverhill

December 12th, 2013: Business Clinic in Concord

December 17-19th, 2013: Vegetable & Fruit Conference at the Radisson in Manchester

Late January there will be meetings at the seacoast – some specifically for Women Farmers

January 21st, 2014 there will be a one day food certification course, stressing food safety preparations.

There will be an exam – those who pass will be licensed.

February 3rd, 2014 there will be seven meetings – on Monday evenings- to become Master Gardeners.

February 7th, 2014 The Farm and Forest Expo will be held at the Radisson in Manchester

February 15th, 2014 there will be a course for new apple farmers- cost will be \$50.00.

February 18th, 2014 a Direct Marketing meeting in Greenland, N.H.

Bob will be available to talk to anyone interested in more information about any of these opportunities.

Our next meeting will be January 8th, 2014 at the Town Hall at 7 p.m. for anyone wanting more information also.

We should have a show starting on Channel 20 by mid January talking about the rules for Gardeners at Wasserman Park – Bob's phone number will be listed there. 40 survey letters were sent out to the Community Garden patrons. About 15 responded so far with suggestions that would make it easier for them in this coming season. Fencing would be welcome but that would not keep out the Woodchucks. Previous gardeners appreciated us paying someone to relocate those creatures last year. Grass clippings are great for mulch.

Bob will be attending a Fruit and Vegetable show in Syracuse, N.Y. on January 20-24, 2014.

Hay would be a better mulch – Agway has bales for \$9.00 – they would give us a discount – perhaps someone knows where we might get it cheaper? Let Bob know.

Bess moved to adjourn, Eber seconded. Adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Next meeting on January 8, 2014 at the Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Trudy Currier