

**MERRIMACK AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION  
APPROVED MINUTES FOR February 8, 2012**

John Lastowka, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7 P.M. Present were : Allen Lindahl, Karen Swenson, Cindy Warhola, Bob McCabe, John Lastowka, Eber Currier, Bess Parks, and Allan Swenson.

John and Bob talked about getting water into the Community Garden more easily this year. They were told it would likely cost \$450 and require quite a bit of work to get 3 faucets on the edge of the Gardens. They still have to talk to Sherry Kalish about it and check with the Dig Safe people. They will have to trench it, put a sleeve in but Bob thinks he will be able to do the work when he is doing the rototilling. They will find out more details and bring that information to the Commission next month and vote on it.

Eber reported on the new web site being developed by Tim Tenhave for the Conservation Commission. They will be doing some mapping and hopefully will be able to get some of the farms in Merrimack on their web site.

Karen Swenson and Bob and Cindy updated us on the Community Garden progress. They have updated the Trifold filled with information for the returning and new gardeners. There are 100 plots. Many of the experienced gardeners will want more than 1 plot so they will be able to rent two immediately and perhaps two more after we see how many new residents join in.

Bess Parks gave the treasurer's report, no change yet the same as last month.

Bob McCabe attended classes for three days out at the Vegetable and Fruit Growers Expo in New York State. Led by professors from Cornell University, he learned a lot for a very moderate price of \$90.00. They had a lot of water out there from Hurricane Irene so some of their crops were pretty soggy. They told him if there is lightening in July, you'd better spray for SWD (Spotted Wing Drosophila) fruit fly or put out traps such as bottles with sugar and yeast in them and holes in the side of the bottles so the fruit flies can go in and can't figure out how to get back out !

Bob, Karen, and John attended the Farm and Forest Expo on February 3<sup>rd</sup> up at the Radisson in Manchester. There were many vendors and farmers, and Farm organizations there and meetings being held all day long. Eber went up on Saturday and attended a meeting of different Agriculture Commissions from the state trying to decide if they should form a group and meet every year at the Expo. The chairperson of the Hollis Agriculture Commission will be calling John Lastowka to see if he can come to one of our meetings to see if he can get some ideas for the Hollis Agricultural Commission. Cindy Warhola was helping the Agriculture in the Classroom booth.

Approved: March 14, 2012

**March 31<sup>st</sup> is the all day (9-3) pruning demonstration at Lastowka's Maple Gate Farm & Vineyard and also at the Horse Hill Nature Preserve right across the street. George Hamilton and John Nute from the Extension Service will be teaching and Bob McCabe will be helping out with his Bucket Truck.**

**Minutes of January 11, 2012 were read. Cindy moved to accept them and Allen seconded. Vote was 6-0-0.**

**Karen and John will try and set up a date to have a seed swap at the library.**

**Allen moved to adjourn. Bess seconded. Vote was 6-0-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.**

**Respectfully submitted,  
Trudy Currier**