

Approved: April 11, 2012

**Merrimack Agricultural Commission
Draft Minutes
March 14, 2012**

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Chairman John Lastowka, Present were Bess Parks, Bob McCabe, Cindy Warhola, Allen Lindahl, and Karen Swenson, and John Lastowka.

Bob McCabe and John Lastowka discussed water installation at Wasserman Park. A presentation to the town council on the topic was deemed unnecessary. A letter was e-mailed to Town Manager Eilene Cabanel that outlined the proposals and estimates.

Dave Frederickson of the Merrimack Village District said they are willing to donate the time to "hole hog" a PVC conduit under the pavement in one location needed to accomplish the project.

The send and receive pits have to be dug before the MVD shows up with the "hole hog". MVD's bill for parts is \$117.50.

The backhoe work to dig the pits will be donated by members of the Merrimack Agricultural Commission. A trencher needs to be rented to make a trench approximately 400 foot long to lay the 1" CTS PE (pipe) in. The cost to dig a two foot trench is \$1.00 per foot, for a total of \$400.00. We are still discussing how many faucets we can place around the gardens. The faucets will be spring loaded so they cannot be left on accidentally and will be attached to 4" x 4" x 6' posts. The approximate cost for four posts, faucets, and fittings is \$175.00.

The labor to complete this Community Garden water project will be donated by the Merrimack Agricultural Commission members. There is an irrigation hand hole that needs to be installed next to the fire hydrant (water meter) to be donated by John Lastowka. Because we are only going two feet deep, there is a concern that the 1" CTS PE (pipe) will freeze in the winter. The CTS PE (pipe) goes uphill from the hand hole to the end of the CTS PE (pipe). There is going to be a drain at the lowest point in the hand hole and the water will drain by gravity the length of the pipe into the hand hole.

John and Bob also met with Paul Micali to see if we had enough funds in our Community Garden Account to pay for this project and Paul said we do have enough funds to cover the costs. The amounts below are estimated costs and the actual costs may go higher or lower than the total below.

Costs: MVD \$117.50

 MAC \$400.00

Supplies \$175.00

 Total \$692.50

John read the letter to the Commission for affirmation-(one he sent to Eilene Cabanel). Allen moved to accept, Bess seconded, and all approved. 5-0-0.

Karen Swenson updated us on the Community Garden news. She mailed out updated garden agreements. Registration starts tomorrow-March 15th, 2012. 6 plots have been sold already. There is a \$10.00 donation for each 10 by 10 plot for a 4-plot maximum. Returning

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gardeners have priority until April 15th. May 1st they can ask for more plots. June 1st – plot choices ends. You can download application on web page and town web page or pick up at town office. There seems to be a lot of interest in the garden. 25 people attended the Seed Swap at the library, supported by the Merrimack Garden Club. There will be a workshop at the Town Library on How to grow plants from seed on the 27th. You can sign up on the Library web page. There is a new sign at the Transfer Station. Giant Pumpkins will be grown in the garden and the pumpkin plants will be donated by Demers Garden Center. Karen is sending out handouts on how to grow tomatoes along with other information. Cindy Warhola said the library is very interested in helping with future events.

Bess Parks gave treasurer's report and we have received \$150.00 for Farmer's Market so far. Paradise Farms and Ledge top Farms have signed up already. \$2,495 has been added to last year's balance.

The pruning demonstration at John's farm will be March 31, led by George Hamilton and John Nute from the Extension Service at the University of New Hampshire. There will be free refreshments. A good attendance is expected.

Minutes of February 8, 2012 were read and accepted with one change. Cindy moved to accept and Bess seconded. 5-0-0.

Bob McCabe said Allen Lindahl's discussion of Honey Bees at the Conservation Commission's meeting was very informative. Allen answered a lot of questions.

Allen moved to adjourn. Bess seconded. Vote was 5-0-0. Time 7:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Joy Currier (Acting Secretary)