

Approved: September 12, 2012

**MERRIMACK AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION
AUGUST 8, 2012
MINUTES**

Bob McCabe, vice-chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Present were Allen Lindahl, Cindy Warhola, Bob McCabe, Eber Currier, and Bess Parks.

John Lastowka, chairperson, is on a business trip. We should be working with the Master Plan people helping to draw up a map of the farmlands. There is no cost or fees but our input is important if we want, the local farmer's to be recognized.

Bess gave the treasurer's report. There is \$2,530.12 in the Farmer's Market account, plus \$2,540.26 in the Community Garden account, making a total of \$3,070.38. Bess also passed out copies of the Merrimack Chamber of Commerce Booklet available to the public. There is one page in there about the local farms, written and photographed by Loretta Jackson, a local resident with a hobby of bee keeping.

Bob talked about late blight on tomatoes – the key is to get it out from the rest of the plants By early detection and removal. There is blossom rot on tomatoes and eggplant due to the high summer temperatures. It needs a fertilizer high in phosphorus and low in nitrogen. Tomato horn worms are here also – must be handpicked and dumped into kerosene early in the morning or they will devour the whole plant in a day. Beetles must be handpicked too.

Again, the future of the Farmer's Market is a problem, as we need more volunteers to assist at the Wednesday markets from end of May until the end of September. Cindy will hold a meeting of the sub-committee at 6 p.m. October 10, 2012 before the regular meeting to talk about this problem. All Commissioners should be there. Bob will see if he can drum up a few more vendors and advertise for a market manager.

4H club monies have been resolved. Letters have all been readied and ready to be finalized.

Minutes of June 26, 2012 were read and accepted. Allen Lindahl moved, Bess seconded. Vote was 5-0-0. Minutes of July 11 were accepted with one change- last name of the lady working on the dog park. Bob will fill it in and give it to John, who will turn in that correction. Allen moved to accept – with that change and Bess seconded. 4-0-0. {Cindy was absent at that meeting.}

Bess talked about possibly having raffles at the market. Cindy moved to use five totes bags for raffles – 1 a week. She will do first one this coming week.

Eber suggested we might try to get support from the Town Council to help pay or staff a Manager for the Market.

Business Expo this year will be on September 29, 2012 from 10 to 3.

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Motion to adjourn by Allen, seconded by Bess. Vote was 5-0-0.

**Respectfully submitted,
Trudy Currier**