

Merrimack Agricultural Commission
February 11, 2015
Minutes

Meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. by Chairman Bob McCabe. Present were Cindy Warhola, Pete Gagnon, Eber Currier, Bess Parks. Bob asked Pete to sit in as a full member for voting purposes this evening.

There were no comments by visitors at this time.

New Business:

- a) **Farmer's Market:** Three new vendors have signed up so there are already 8 signed up for the coming season. Market dates are from June 17, 2015 through October 14, 2015 making a total of 18 weeks. It will be held at Vault Storage at 526 D.W. Highway. It will be on the Town Website and Christine has put the information on Facebook.
- b) **Community Garden:** There will be an informational meeting at the Klump Room at the Merrimack Public Library at 7 p.m. on Monday, March 9, 2015 for all people who might be interested in information on the Merrimack Community Garden. Bob McCabe will be the speaker but other members of the Ag Commission will be there also to answer any questions the new gardeners might have. Also, we will have a voluntary seed swap table at the meeting.
- c) **Review of By-laws:** With advice from the Town Attorney, the Commission will work on the proposed bylaws at the next meeting and get them accepted as soon as possible. Eber moved to follow Bob's advice on making any changes necessary. Bess seconded. Vote was 5-0-0.
- d) **Discussion of Gas Line through Merrimack:** Eber talked to a representative of the New Hampshire State Executive of U.S. Farm Agency , who told him that the U.S. Government is not taking sides but leaving up to the States to approve or not. Trevor Hardy, from Brookdale Fruit Farm, was also in conversations with Kinder-Morgan about the pipeline that is proposed to go through his property. Don Miner, who owns a family farm at 82 Peaslee Road spoke of his experiences in trying to obtain information from Kinder-Morgan. His well is 463 feet deep. The pipeline will abut the power lines and thus abut his farmland also. The gas line is proposed to be 50 feet from his basement. Their representatives have been on his land with surveying equipment without his permission.

Kathy Rose, who owns the antique house directly across the street from Mr. Miner, is extremely concerned about her house and barn. There will be a meeting in Milford at the Hampshire Hills Fitness Center on February 24, 2015 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Kinder Morgan representatives will be there to talk to people.

- e) **UNH Extension classes:** Again there is a long list of classes and training on several topics: 4H subjects, landscaping training and rules, employees training for safety, pest info and bug books. <http://extension.unh.edu/agriculture> will give you all that information – dates and times and locations. Or you can call Bob McCabe at 759-2737.
- f) **Bug Alert:** report next month.
- g) **Winter Horse Care:** Temperature at or near freezing with wet and cold – Horses can tolerate if they are healthy but should be blanketed or waterproof sheets and the most important thing – plenty of water – they can drink 20 gallons of water a day and should have good hay. Bess has an electric water heater for her horses, which saves a lot of water carrying back and forth.
- h) **Minutes:** Review minutes from January 14, 2015. Cindy moved to accept, with one correction, Bess seconded. Vote was 5-0-0. Next meeting will be on March 11, 2015.

Pete moved to adjourn. Bess seconded. Vote was 5-0-0. Adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Trudy Currier Acting secretary