

Merrimack Agricultural Commission
Minutes
March 11, 2015

Meeting was called to order at 6:55 p.m. by Chairman Bob McCabe. Present were Cindy Warhola, Bob McCabe, Eber Currier, Bess Parks. Pete Gagnon arrived a few minutes later and agreed to act as a full member for this meeting.

- a) **Farmer's Market Update:** Christine Lavoie will be at the Merrimack YMCA on March 28, 2015 from 10.00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. speaking to vendors with information about the Farmer's Market, which will run from June 17 to October 14, 2015. Vault Storage at 526 D. W. Highway in Merrimack has again offered to let the Agricultural Commission use their parking lot from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. every Wednesday. They are also allowing us the use of a storage trailer to store our supplies during the Market and access to their electrical power. Eber moved to make \$100.00 available to help Bob pay for stamps and \$50.00 ink to cover printing costs. Bess seconded. Vote was 4-0-0.
- b) **Community Garden Update:** Bob McCabe led a meeting at the Klump Room at the town Library on March 9, 2015 at 7 p.m. There were over 30 gardeners there asking questions and signing up to rent a plot at the Community Garden at Wasserman Park this spring. There was also a seed swap and suggestions and print outs of various extension articles to help the gardeners. Bob needs strings, stakes, flags, and ground dry so that he may prepare the garden for spring. Cindy moved to make \$100.00 available to Bob to pay him for some of these necessary items. Bess seconded. Vote was 4-0-0. Bob donates his equipment, time, and labor.
- c) **Review and acceptance of Bylaws:** After reviewing and making a few changes, Eber moved to accept these bylaws, as changed. Cindy seconded. Vote was 5-0-0. Bob will get it to the Town Manager for approval.
- d) **Update on Kinder Morgan project:** Letters will be sent to Rob Johnson, head of the N.H. Farm Bureau, more information is available on the Town website to enable us to write to proper organizations about our concerns for the future of farming in Merrimack.
- e) **New Member Interview:** This had to be held over for a different date.
- f) **UNH Extension classes:** Again there are many classes pertaining to farming during the month. Information can be obtained by going online at extension.unh.edu – or by calling Bob McCabe at 759-2737.
- g) **Bug Alert:** The Emerald Ash Borer has now been seen in Mount Vernon. It can destroy our Ash Trees so everyone needs to keep close watch.

- h) **Spring Horse Care:** Bess Parks says it's time for necessary shots – preferably by a Vet – for Rabies and West Nile, Tetanus, and Coggins, which is required if you show your horses. Horses have very sensitive respiratory tract and sometimes have allergic reactions to some shots so a Vet would know what to do should these things occur.
- i) **Treasurer's report:** As of February 28, 2015 there is \$2202.84 in the Farmer's Market account and \$2009.52 in the Community Garden Account, making a total of \$4,212.36.
- j) **Minutes:** Review draft minutes from February 11, 2015. Cindy moved to accept the minutes as amended. Pete seconded. Vote was 5-0-0.

Comments from the Commission: Bob read a letter of appreciation from Jolee Chase of the 4-H Youth Development for our donation to their organization to be used for scholarships to Merrimack 4-H members. He also announced that Cindy Warhola is leaving the Agricultural Commission. She will be missed – her knowledge of farming has been very helpful to a lot of people. Many thanks for all you've done, Cindy, and best of luck in your future endeavors.

Next meeting will be on April 15, 2015.

Cindy moved to adjourn, Bess seconded. Vote was 5-0-0.

The meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Trudy Currier, Acting Secretary