

Merrimack Agricultural Commission

Minutes

September 9, 2015

Chairman Bob McCabe called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. Present were Bob McCabe, Eber Currier, Bess Parks, and Don Miner.

(a) Interview potential new member : Amanda Yonkin presented a very complete resume. She was a 4-H leader for five years and is presently a certified Horseback Riding Instructor. She grew up riding horses and was a NH State Saddle Seat Champion. Now she is raising chickens and fainting goats on her family's farm in Merrimack and spends much time on her gardening skills. The Agricultural Commission supports her desire to volunteer her time , skills, and knowledge . She will have to be interviewed and sworn in by the Town Council.

(b) Farmer's Market Update : It was a very hot day at the Farmer's Market today but there were still 19 vendors there and customers too. Bob McCabe has not been reimbursed for the printing supplies and stamps for the mailings because it did not appear in the minutes. So Don Miner moved to repay Bob \$122. , Bess Parks seconded. Vote was 4-0-0.

(c) Community Garden Update : Three woodchucks have taken a toll on the produce grown at the gardens. Veterans plots will take any leftover produce the gardeners don't need . The garden will close down on October 12, 2015 so gardeners need to remove everything so Bob can get in there and till the soil and do any necessary work at the site.

(d) UNH Extension classes: September 16 there will be a meeting on water quality, September 22 a meeting on farm safety, and on November 2, 2015 there will be a Pollinator Meeting. Information on these meetings can be found on extension.unh.edu – or by calling Bob McCabe at 759-2737.

(e) Bug Alert: Corn and Potato Bugs are busy right now and the deer are eating the corn. Eber's Orchard is doing great this year. Fire Blight was a problem but not as bad as last year.

(f) Update on Kinder-Morgan Project : The Farm Bureau is still working on a meeting with Farmers in the state and Kinder-Morgan staff. Many people are writing letters to Ferc, which is the only Federal organization to be making final decision on this plan.

(g) Horse Sense : Bess had an accident in her barn - injured her arm while tending to maintenance so decided to just tell everybody – be careful. Her arm is in a cast for awhile but she'll soon be riding again.

(h) Minutes – Review minutes from August 12, 2015 – Bess moved to accept and Don seconded. Vote was 4-0-0.

Comments from the Commissioners : Eber bought two gift certificates to be given out at the Hillsborough County Fair for 4-H people. Bought them at Tractor Supply - both books – From the Merrimack Agricultural Commission. One was Hatching and Brooding and the other was Back Yard Bee Keeper. Bob McCabe said there will be a Bee farmer at the Farmer's Market in a week or two with a glass beehive.

Next meeting will be October 14, 2015.

Eber moved to adjourn, Bess seconded. Vote was 4-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Trudy Currier , acting secretary.