

**MERRIMACK AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION**  
**MINUTES**  
**DECEMBER 14, 2016**

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Bob McCabe at 7:10 p.m.

Present: Ron Miner, Don Miner, Paul Drone, Bess Parks

No comments from the press or public.

New Business:

- a. **Summer Market:** Bob will be mailing 300 applications/contracts for the summer market in January 2017. Bob requested \$250.00 to cover the costs of stamps and envelopes. Bess made the motion to approve the request, seconded by Paul, motion carried 4-0-0. It was also brought to the Commission's attention that a parking lot attendant will be needed for approximately 3 to 3 ½ hours per week. Ron indicated he would be available to help as his time permits. It is hopeful that Shaelagh Nelson will again help during her summer break from college. Notices will be posted for additional parking lot assistance.
- b. **Winter Market:** Don commented that he has 5 solid vendors along with himself, a chocolatier, produce, hydroponic greens, and 2 bakers. The goal is to have a cheese, maple, honey, products available too. A raffle drawing was held, with vendors contributing. The next drawing will be December 21, 2016. The small signs discussed at the November 9, 2016 meeting have been ordered and should be available soon. Don reported that the bill boards were not available and the cost would have been in the thousands. A possible alternative would be to purchase a used trailer sign that could be moved to various high traffic areas in town to promote both summer and winter markets or other activities presented by the commission. Bob and Don will do more research and present their findings at the January 11, 2017 meeting.
- c. The board reviewed 4H leader Jolee Chase's letter regarding other help the commission could offer. One of the items recommended was for a scale to weigh the livestock auctioned at the New Boston 4-H Fair. Don had inquired of the type and cost of the scale that would weigh animals up to 5,000 pounds. The cost for the scale alone would be approximately \$2,000, with other cost for installation. The board felt it needed more specifics and will invite Jolee to attend the January 11, 2017 meeting to discuss further.
- d. **Direction for 2017:** The board was asked to think of ways to increase public awareness, through workshops or other avenues.
- e. **UNH Extension bulletins:** See attached.
- f. No new report of invasive bug species.

- g. **Horse Sense:** Bess gave information of estimating winter hay needs for horses. An adult horse at maintenance will consume between 2-2.5% of their bodyweight in feed (hay and grain) each day. A 1,000-lb. horse fed a 100% hay diet would consume 25 pounds of hay each day. A horse receiving 5 lbs. of grain, would require 20 lbs. of addition forage to maintain a healthy weight.
- h. **History of Farming in Merrimack:** Ron has continued his research on Merrimack's earliest farming pursuits. Don offered some helpful ways to acquire additional information through old town records in addition to what is available from the town history or Historical Society.
- i. **Treasurers Report:** As of December 2, 2016: Balance for the Summer Farmer's Market is \$5,139.18, Community Garden \$3,435.32, with a combined total of \$8,574.50. The Winter Market balance is \$1,480.00.
- j. **Minutes:** The minutes were reviewed and motion made by Paul to accept as read, Ron seconded. motion carried 5-0-0.

No comments from the press or public.

The Commission spoke briefly on ways to increase membership and to share ideas at the next meeting.

Don made the motion to adjourn, Ron seconded, motion carried 5-0-0.

Next meeting January 11, 2017.

Respectfully Submitted  
Bess-Arden Parks  
Acting Secretary

## **UNH Classes**

12/15/2016 - Safety for Poultry and Rabbit Producers - 9:15 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Boscawen NH

1/5/2017 - Tri-State Greenhouse IPM Workshop - 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., MacFarlane Greenhouses, Durham, NH

1/11/2017 - Vegetable Production School: Focus on Cucurbits! - 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Audubon Center, Concord, NH

1/18/2017 - NHLA/NHPGA & UNHCE Joint Winter Meeting - 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Grappone Center, Concord, NH