

MERRIMACK AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION
MINUTES
FEBRUARY 8, 2017

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

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

No Comments from the Press or Public

New Business:

- a. **4-H Contribution Discussion:** Don presented weight scale comparisons from Advance Scales and those presented by Jolie Chase, 4-H leader at the January 8, 2017 meeting. It was found that the scale information Jolie brought for consideration was not the right type scale used at other 4-H Fairs in New England. It was voted that Don would compare the information from Advance Scale and another California vendor. The detailed information will be voted on via e-mail when available. Motion made by Ron to accept conditions, Bess seconded motion carried 4-0-0. Then 4-H Canning project was approved for the \$250.00 to obtain the necessary supplies needed. Community garden plots would also be available for those 4-H members not having garden space at their homes. Motion was made to accept the Canning Project Proposal as written, Ron made a motion, Bess seconded, motion carried. 4-0-0. Proposal attached.
- b. **Summer Market:** Bob reported that 300 hundred Vendor letter/contracts have been mailed. It has also been brought to Bob's attention by Tom Boland, Deputy Finance Director requesting payment for copying in the future. After some discussion, the commission accepted as reasonable the cost per copy at \$0.065 cent for color and \$0.005 cent for black and white.
- c. **Winter Market:** Don reports the vendor and customers vary week to week. Better weather and extended daylight should hopefully increase traffic. Don had an opportunity to look at a gas powered mobile sign for sale, but found the condition poor and not suitable for our use. Alternative suggestion was to inquire of Paul Micali the possibility of renting the town mobile sign when not in use by the town.
- d. **Direction for 2017, i.e. Ideas and topics of interest:** Bob encouraged continued board participation with topics of interest to share the board and public.
- e. **Workshops:** See Attached.
- f. **Bug Alert:** Nothing new to report at this time.
- g. **Equine Report:** Bess continued with Part 3 on /forages for Horses, selection based on the horses need. For example, nutrient-dense forage like vegetative alfalfa hay fed to "easy keepers" can create obesity issues., however, that same hay would be good option for a performance horse with elevated nutrient requirements. Differences in the nutritive quality of forages (hay or pasture) are largely based on two factors: plant maturity and species.

- h. **Treasurers Report:** As of February 3, 2017 the Summer Market balance is \$4,891.71, Community Garden balance is \$3,435.32, with a combined total of \$ 8,327.03. The Winter Market balance is \$1,395.00.
- i. **History of Farming:** Ron spoke of Laton Mitchell Henderson, who was born in Merrimack, was involved with 4-H, and graduated from the UNH College of Agriculture in 1936. Laton received a master's degree from Pennsylvania State College where he was the Northeastern Representative for the American Jersey Cattle Club. He taught in the dairy department at Rutgers University and later at Mount Ararat Farm with a herd of 300, developing their creamery and retail milk business. After serving in WWII, he worked for the Southern Dairy Company managing a 900-1000 dairy herd in Miami, Fl., then managing Southern's dairy processing plant in Christiansburg, VA. He wrote many brochures and papers on the quality of milk, and a manual for milk testers in New Jersey. Laton died January 3rd., 1990 in New Richmond, WI.
- j. **Minutes:** Minutes read with motion made to accept by Don, Ron seconded, motion carried 4-0-0

No Comments from the Press or Public

Comments from the Commission: Bob reminded board and public that the Community Garden Information night at the Merrimack Library will be held March 1, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

Don made the motion to adjourn, Bess seconded motion carried 4-0-0.

Next meeting schedule for March 8, 2017.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bess-Arden Parks
Acting Secretary

February 13 – RMA Organic Growers Winter Workshop – 3:00 p.m., Pease Public Library, Plymouth, NH

February 17/18 – NH Farm & Forest Expo, Radisson Hotel, Manchester, NH

February 18 – NH Vegetable & Berry Growers Association Annual Meeting, Radisson Hotel, Manchester, NH

February 18 – NH Dairy Goat Seminar – 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., Radisson Hotel, Manchester, NH

Forage Crop IPM Risk Management Workshop –

February 21 – Lancaster, NH

February 22 – Concord, NH

March 3 – Northern NE Nursery Conference – 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.; The Derryfield, Manchester, NH

Annie's Project – **March 9, 16 and 23** – 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., UNH Manchester, Manchester, NH

March 16 – 41st Annual Day Management Conference – 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., Fireside Inn & Suites, West Lebanon, NH