

MERRIMACK AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION
MINUTES
OCTOBER 11, 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.

- a. **SUMMER MARKET:** The Summer Market ended this date October 11, 2017 at the Vault Storage location on Daniel Webster Highway North. The Commission extends appreciative thanks to the Morgan family for their continued support in providing the use of their parking area for the market. A Thank You too, to the many vendors who participated this 2017 summer season, and the loyal customers who enjoy the markets many offerings. Don mentioned that he is considering increasing the market visibility with updates on face book and other media publications.
- b. **WINTER MARKET:** Don reports all is set for the opening of the Winter Farmer's Market October 18, 2017, at the John O'Leary Senior Center. Many familiar vendors will be on hand, with others participating as their schedules permit. Special promotions and raffles will again be held throughout the 2017/2018 market season.
- c. **COMMUNITY GARDEN:** The Community garden will be officially closed October 15, 2017. All produce, implements, or items of adornment need to be removed by gardeners prior to closing date. Bob will top dress the garden plots with winter rye, and has requested \$180 for the rye purchase. Don made the motion to approve the \$180 for the purchase of rye seed for the community garden. Ron seconded, and the motion carried 4-0-0.
- d. **AUTHORIZATION FOR OFFICE SUPPLIES:** Bob will soon be assembling the 2018 vendor lists and contracts for both the Farmer's Market and Community Garden. He is requesting \$300, to purchase ink, stamps and labels to complete this mailing project timely. Don made the motion to approve the \$300-dollar amount requested for the necessary office supplies. Ron seconded, and the motion carried 4-0-0.
- e. **UPCOMING WORKSHOPS:** See Attached.
- f. **THE AG. REPORT:** Ron gave a summation of the USDA's report on the Nation's Corn harvest. This month's 2017/2018 corn outlook is for a larger production, increasing feed and residual use, and nearly unchanged ending stock. Corn production forecast at 14.280 billion bushels is up 96 million from last month. Corn supplies are higher, as a larger crop more than offsets a reduction in beginning stock, based on the Grain Stock report. Projected feed and residual use increased 25 million bushels. With supply and use changes essentially offsetting, corn ending stocks are up 5 million bushels from last month. The projected range for the season average corn price received by producers is unchanged at \$2.80-3.60 a bushel.

- g. **BUG ALERT:** There is still signs of web worm, along with ticks and stink bugs. There seems to be fewer flies, perhaps due to the weather conditions this season.
- h. **HORSE SENSE:** Bess offered some tips on Senior Horse Care: As horses are living longer, more productive lives than ever before, due to advances in care, medicine, nutrition and veterinary practices, it is not unusual to find a horse active into their thirties. Moving is a key factor in keeping your senior comfortable. Not only does moving about help with preserving muscle mass, motion also aids in digestion, reducing inflammation and increasing circulation. Daily turnout is a great way to provide this opportunity, as is regular exercise; including light schooling, trail rides, driving or hand walking. Whether in a pasture or dry lot, frequent exercise of your senior horse will go a long way in providing a happy, healthy retirement.
- i. **TREASURERS REPORT:** As of September 30, 2017, the Farmer's Market balance was \$4,115.87. The Community Garden balance \$2,626.50, with a combined total of \$6,742.37. The Winter Farmer's Market account remains at \$977.50.
- j. **MINUTES:** The August 9 and September 13, 2017 minutes were read. With the name correction from "Ron", to "Don" relating to the Winter Market report, and spelling correction from "Commetnat" to "Comments" from the Public, on the September 13, 2017 minutes, the minutes were accepted as read by Don, seconded by Ron, motion carried 4-0-0.

NO COMMENTS FROM THE PRESS OR PUBLIC:

COMMENTS FROM THE COMMISSION: The Commission received a thank you card from the recipient who won the "Best in Show" for her chickens, receiving one of the \$50.00 Blue Seal gift certificates donated by the commission, to first place winners in the various 4-H divisions at the Hillsborough County Fair, September 2017. Ron received word that the "Pickling Project" that the commission also funded for Merrimack's 4-H youth was a great success. A follow-up report on the project by a 4-H representative will be presented at a future meeting.

Motion made to adjourn at 7:50 by Bess, seconded by Don, motion carried 4-0-0.

The next meeting will be November 8, 2017, 7:00 p.m., at the Matthew Thornton Room, East Wing.

Respectfully Submitted

Bess-Arden Parks
Acting Secretary