

**MERRIMACK AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION
MINUTES
JUNE 13, 2018**

Meeting called to order by Chairman Bob McCabe at 7:10 pm.

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

No Comments from the Press or Public.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. **UPDATE ON COMMUNITY GARDEN:** Half the garden plots were rented and planted with a variety of produce by the gardeners. There are still plots available and may contact Bob at merrimackgardens@gmail.com. Several woodchucks have been captured and relocated.
- b. **UPDATE ON SUMMER FARMERS MARKET:** The Summer Farmers Market open June 13, 2018 at Vault Storage, D.W. Highway North in Merrimack. Hours are from 3:00-6:00 pm, every Wednesday through October 10. Twelve vendors offering a variety of early spring produce and farm related products were present, with a strong customer turnout for the opening day. Additional vendors are expected as the season progresses. Those selling seasonal fruit such as strawberries, which are now available for the next four to six weeks are encouraged to participate. The display sign board is now operational with advertising for the market and will highlight a vendor and their products each week.
- c. **ANNUAL REVIEW:** Bob and Don will present a summary of the Agriculture Commission's accomplishments and visions for the future to the Merrimack Town Council, at their meeting June 28, 2018.
- d. **UPCOMING WORKSHOPS/SEMINARS** – See Attached.
- e. **SCHOLARSHIPS/DONATIONS:** Bob referred to the Board for their input on other agricultural projects that the board could offer financial support, in addition to those already being funded. One suggestion was to provide the tuition for two Merrimack youngsters going to the Joppa Hill Educational Farm camp in Bedford, NH for a week. Cost for a half day for the 4-6 age group is \$130.00, with the all-day program for 6-11-year-olds \$250.00. Another thought was a onetime donation to the educational farm to purchase items, i.e. a small weigh scale to use as the farm expands its programs. Bob has contacted Jolee Chase, the 4-H manager should the Merrimack 4-H group have a special project this summer needing funding. Ron mentioned having a farm/produce seminar in the future, which will be discussed in more detail later. The Board will continue to offer a \$500.00 college scholarship to a Merrimack High School student(s) continuing their education in an agricultural field if applied for and accepted. \$550.00 has previously been approved for \$50.00 Blue Seal gift certificates to be awarded to eleven 4-H first place winners in their respected classes, along with \$500.00 given to the 4-H account to assist members for educational purposes, attend yearly conferences or use at the discretion of the 4-H leader. Paul made the motion to approve \$500.00 for the 4-H account, and the \$550.00 for the Blue Seal gift certificates, Don seconded. with motion carried 5-0-0.

- f. COMMUNITY GARDEN FILM: Ron reports the film has been running on Channel 22. He thanked Paul and Bob for their assistance with this on-going project.
- g. BUG ALERT: All the seasonal attacking bugs are out in force from ticks to vegetable pests and those affecting trees and shrubs. Always use caution when applying pesticides; if being used, read labels carefully or contact your local Cooperative Extension office for assistance.
- h. HORSE SENSE: Bess offered a few pointers on keeping equines comfortable during the heat of the summer months. Turnout during cooler times of day, provide shelter, whether trees out to pasture or run in shed. Use fans for airflow if necessary, and always have clean fresh water available always, along with free choice of salt. Reduce riding intensity and length and trailer in a well-ventilated trailer during the cooler part of the day, and never park in the direct sunlight with horses aboard. Watch for normal sweating, TRE consult your veterinarian immediately if your horse stops producing sweat, breathes heavily or becomes lethargic, distressed or uncoordinated.
- i. TREASURERS REPORT: As of MAY 31, 2018, The Merrimack Agricultural Commission Farmer's Market Fund Account is \$4,595.03. The Community Garden Fund Account is \$2,691.41, with a combined total of \$7,286.44. The Winter Market Fund Account is \$650.00.
- j. MINUTES: The May 9, 2018 Minutes were read with motion made by Don to accept, Paul seconded., motion carried 5-0-0.

No Comments from the press or public.

Comments from the Commission: Advertising in the Farmers Market Place section of the Union Leader newspaper was discussed with all in favor of placing an ad for eight weeks during the summer market at \$25.00 per ad, totaling \$200.00. Paul made the motion to approve the \$200.00 to advertise the Summer Farmer's Market in the Union Leader for eight weeks. Ron seconded., motion carried 5-0-0.

Bess made the motion to adjourn at 8:10 pm. Don seconded, motion carried 5-0-0.

The next meeting will be held July 11, 2018 at 7:00 pm, in the Matthew Thornton Room, East Wing.

Respectfully Submitted

Bess-Arden Parks
Acting Secretary