

**MERRIMACK AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION
MINUTES
JULY 11, 2018**

Meeting called to order by Chairman Bob McCabe at 7:08pm.

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

No Comments from the Press or Public

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. **UPDATE ON COMMUNITY GARDEN:** Garden plot are still available and being requested. Bob has rototilled the weeds from unused plots, and reports woodchucks trapped are relocated to avoid crop damage. Bob can be reached at (merrimackgardens@gmail.com) for more information on purchasing a garden plot for the 2018 season.
- b. **SUMMER FARMERS MARKET:** July 11 was the fourth market with 11 vendors and active customer traffic. More varieties of produce are becoming available as the growing season progresses. Two new vendors will be joining the market offering jams, jellies and locally grown corn. Bob is still in need of a part-time summer assistant to help set up the market and offer support as needed.
- c. **UPCOMING WORKSHOPS/SEMINARS:** See Attached
- d. **ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIPS AND 4-H DONATIONS:** Bob will contact Jolee Chase, 4-H manager, regarding funding for 4-H members to attend a 4-H, agricultural or other environmental based camp. Bob will also contact Deborah Barker, head of guidance at the Merrimack High School with information regarding college scholarships available to students continuing their education in an agricultural related field. Under other donations, the board agreed to purchase two milking attachments for the previously purchased grooming/shearing stands for the Joppa Hill Educational Farm, in Bedford, New Hampshire. The attachments will assist in milking the goats as part of the farms hands-on learning experience. The purchase price for the two stands is \$366.42 to be delivered directly to Joppa Hill. Paul made the motion to approve \$366.42 for the purchase of two milking attachments for the grooming/shearing stands previously purchase for the Joppa Hill Educational Farm, Don seconded, motion carried 5-0-0.
- e. **FARM REPORT:** Ron continues to work on video footage relating to the Community Gardens, Summer Market and history of the Commission. The videos will be aired on an on-going basis through the local Merrimack TV channel as they become available.
- f. **BUG ALERT:** The garden world is alive with plant devouring bugs, beetles, worms, along with deer, woodchucks, rabbits and other vermin that compete with the gardener for tasty greens and produce. Managing these pests can be difficult at best for a healthy harvest. There are many methods of controlling these pests, from hand picking, nature's good bugs, like dragon flies, various flowers and herbs for the naturalist, along with fencing and pesticides. When using pesticides follow the directions carefully.

- g. HORSE SENSE: There are thousands of fly species, but there are a number of common fly species that are typically found in the stable environment. These include stable, horse, house flies, face gnats and mosquitos. All bite and can cause irritation and disease. Maintaining good stable hygiene will help by removing horse manure to prevent a breeding ground. Keep mangers and water buckets/troughs clean and provide good air circulation. There are many stable sprays, fly tapes, trapping devices, fly predators, and feed supplements available, as well as using face nets and many more effective ways to manage these summer pests. Use any chemicals responsibly, consult a pest controller for advise if necessary to ensure your animal's health and safety.
- h. TREASURERS REPORT: As of June 30, 2018, the Merrimack Agricultural Commissions Farmers Market Fund Account is \$5,345.03. The Community Garden Fund Account is \$2,741.41, with a combined balance of \$8,086.44. The Winter Farmers Market Fund Account is \$650.00.
- i. MINUTES: The June 13, 2018 minutes were read with motion made by Don to accept, Ron seconded, motion carried 5-0-0.

NO COMMENTS FROM PRESS OR PUBLIC:

COMMENTS FROM THE COMMISSION: The Commission was recently notified that Hannaford Store Leadership has again chosen the Merrimack Community Garden at Wasserman Park to receive a \$1 donation through the Hannaford Helps Reusable Bag Program. This program was specifically designed to generate donations in support of non-profits working to make the communities local to each Hannaford store a better place.

Don made the motion to adjourn at 8:08 p.m., Ron seconded, motion carried 5-0-0.

The next meeting will be held August 8, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in the Matthew Thornton Room, East Wing.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bess-Arden Parks
Acting Secretary