

**MERRIMACK AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION  
MINUTES  
NOVEMBER 14, 2018**

Meeting called to order by Chairman Bob McCabe at 7:05 p.m.

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

No Comments from the Press or Public

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- a. **AGRICULTURAL BOOKS FROM THE EXTENSION SERVICE:** John Porter of the Cooperative Extension Service was contacted by a local book store that they were discontinuing several agricultural related text books on a variety of topics. He contacted Bob to see if the commission would be interested. Bob traveled to Concord to pick up a collection of six books. Titles included were (Nutrient Management in Agricultural Watersheds), (Herd Health/Production Management in Dairy Practice), (Sustainable Food Production and Ethics), (Innovation in Agri-Food Systems), Gut Efficiency; the key ingredient in Pig and Poultry Production), and (Learning for Sustainability). Members of the commission received a copy of each book.
- b. **SIGN BOARD and QUESTIONS FOR THE TOWN MANAGER:** A list of questions regarding the sale and use of the display sign board by the commission will be forwarded to Eileen Cabanel for her review, as well as any future garden site and winter market questions, and to arrange a convenient time to meet with Bob and Don to discuss this matter. The results of the meeting to be presented at the next commission meeting December 12, 2018.
- c. **WINTER MARKET:** Don reports a good start to the winter market season with between 6-8 vendors available, (with several more planning to attend), offering a variety of fresh produce, fish, baked goods, natural healing products, meats/poultry, cheeses and hand-crafted silver jewelry. Customers traffic has been excellent as advertising through face book and other social media. Articles in both the Nashua Telegraph and Merrimack Journal have brought the market to front page attention. The winter market is open 3 pm to 6 pm every Wednesday (except holidays or bad storm conditions) at the John O'Leary Senior Center.
- d. **HORSE SENSE: Teach Him Manners.** To make hoof care stress-free, teach your horse manners. If he's difficult to work with, he won't get the best possible care from your farrier. It's also a safety hazard for you if he's unruly while being handled on and off the trail. To help your horse become comfortable with the trimming and shoeing procedure, prepare him for the handling, sounds and sensations he'll experience with your farrier. When you pick your horses feet, have him stand a little longer than necessary to teach patience. Use a carpenter's hammer to mock the feel and sound of trimming and shoeing. With the hammer's claw, scrape the sole and outside of the hoof to mimic the rasp. Light, hammer-like motions emulate driving nails. Avoid being too aggressive. Your trail horse is at risk for a foot injury even on rock-free trails, so be prepared. Carry supplies for hoof-related mishaps, such as a hoof boot. If you find yourself without hoof protection, stay on the softest ground possible to avoid stone bruises, or damaging the hoof wall.

- e. UPCOMING WORKSHOPS/SEMINARS – See Attached
- f. TREASURER'S REPORT: As of October 31, 2018, the Agricultural Commission Summer Farmer's Market Fund Account is \$4,777.38. The Community Garden Fund Account is \$2,488.24, with a combined total of \$7, 265.62. The Winter Market Fund Account is \$483.34.
- g. MINUTES: The minutes were read and with the correction of an omission approving \$55.00 dollars for Bob McCabe to attend a "Habitat Restoration Workshop" seminar. The motion had been made by Don to approve the \$55.00 for Bob to attend the seminar, Paul 2<sup>nd</sup>., motioned had been carried. 5-0-0. Don made the motion to accept the minutes as amended, Ron seconded, motion carried 5-0-0.

NO COMMENTS FROM THE PRESS OR PUBLIC.

COMMENTS FROM THE COMMISSION: Bob has received the results of the soil test for a potential new community garden. The tests revealed the need for good compost, fertilizer and lime. Bob also mentioned that it is nearing time to send out vendor information for the 2019 Summer Market. Bob asked the commission to approve \$100.00 for stamps to cover the cost of the mailing. Paul made the motion to approve \$100.00 for Bob to purchase the necessary postage for the Summer Market vendor mailing. Don seconded, motion carried 5-0-0.

Don made the motion to adjourn at 7: 58, Ron seconded, motioned carried 5-0-0.

The next meeting will be held December 12, 2018, at 7:00 p.m., in the Matthew Thornton Room, East Wing.

Respectfully Submitted

Bess-Arden Parks  
Acting Secretary