

MERRIMACK AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION
MINUTES
JULY 10, 2019

Meeting brought to order by Chairman Bob McCabe at 6:54 p.m.

Present: Paul Drone, Ron Miner III, Bess Parks

Absent: Don Miner

Comments from the Press or Public:

New Business:

- a. SUMMER MARKET: Ten vendors welcomed many new and regular customers at the July 10th summer market. With new produce becoming available as the season progresses, the market also offers, honey, maple syrup, specialty teas and sauces, wine, baked goods, including gluten free breads, and Auntie Betty's embroidery and sewing service. The summer market is held from 3-6 p.m. at the Vault Storage parking on Daniel Webster Highway North, in Merrimack. Bob mentioned there has been an excellent response to the market face book page. For more information regarding the market or becoming a vendor, contact Bob at (merrimackfarmersmarket@gmail.com)
- b. COMMUNITY GARDEN UPDATE: Bob reports that all but two garden plots have been planted, with many already producing tomatoes, squash, and other early maturing vegetables. The renters of the two plots left to weeds were notified of the situation, with one renter following through, clearing and planting their plot; the other renter did not respond to Bob's call. The plot was then turned over to another gardener, who cleared the weeds and planted a variety of flowers. The garden area is well kept, with no reports of garden pests to date.
- c. DISCUSSION OF 4-H NEW BOSTON FAIR DONATION: Bob asked the board for consideration to continue giving \$50.00 Blue Seal gift cards (totaling \$550.00) to the eleven (11) first place winners in their division at the New Boston Agricultural Fair. The fair is held from September 6th-8th, 2019. Paul made the motion to approve the \$550.00 for the \$50.00 Blue Seal gift cards to be presented to the first place 4-H winners at the 2019 New Boston Agricultural Fair. Ron seconded; motion carried 4-0-0.
- d. BUG ALERT: Bob has seen evidence of the Spotted Wing Drosophila (SWD) which is a major pest of fruit crops. SWD's attack ripening fruit of brambles, including raspberries, blueberries, strawberries, cherries, grapes and other fruit trees. Japanese beetles are also emerging from the grub stage. They do not discriminate and skeletonize the leaves of over 300 type of plants and flowers. Another garden pest is the European corn borer. This moth is of the family Crambidae, which includes other grass moths that feed on over 300 garden

plants. Contact your County Cooperative Extension Service for information on best management practices in controlling these and other crop pests.

[\(https://extension.unh.edu/\)](https://extension.unh.edu/)

- e. HORSE SENSE: Part II on Disaster Preparedness for Horses: Horse Evacuation Tips. 1. Make advance arrangements to have your horse trailered in case of an emergency. 2. Know where you can take your horses in an emergency evacuation. 3. Inform friends and neighbors of your evacuation plans. 4. Place your horse(s) tests, veterinary papers, identification photographs and other vital information in a watertight envelope. Store in a safe place. 5. Keep halters ready, with the horse(s) name, your name, telephone number and another emergency number where someone can be reached. 6. Prepare a basic first aid kit that is portable and easily accessible. 7. Be sure to have on hand a supply of water, hay, feed and medications for several days for each horse you're evacuating. 8. It is very important that your horse(s) are comfortable being loaded onto a trailer. If your horse(s) are unaccustomed to his procedure, practice it so they become use to it. 9. There may be times when taking your horse(s) with you is impossible during an emergency. You must consider different types of disasters and whether your horse(s) would be better off in a barn or loose in a field. Your local humane organization, agricultural extension agent, or local emergency management agency may be able to provide you with information about your community's disaster response plans.
- f. UPCOMMING WORKSHOPS/SEMINARS – See Attached.
- g. TREASURER'S REPORT: As of June 30th, 2019, the Agricultural Commission Farmers Market Fund Account is \$5,581.60, The Community Garden Fund Account is \$2,242.33, with a combined total of \$7,823.93. The Winter Farmers Market Fund Account is \$332.08.
- h. MINUTES: The June minutes were read with Paul making the motion to accept. Ron seconded; motion carried 4-0-0.

No Comments from the Press or Public:

Comments from the Commission: Bob has asked the Town purchaser to order ink cartridges for the commissions use. Bob also reported that the corners of the pop-up tent used at the market are deteriorating. Vendor and seamstress Auntie Betty Lindahl can reinforce the corners at a cost of \$ 40.00. The repair would be cost effective compared to purchasing a new tent. Paul made the motion to appropriate \$40.00 for the tent repair, Ron seconded, motion carried 4-0-0. Paul brought up for discussion of having a Winter Farmer's Market for the 2019/2020 season. The Commission agrees that the Winter Market will be discontinued for the 2019/2020 season with consideration for the future should a suitable place, with good visibility, and adequate parking become available.

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Paul made the motion to adjourn at 7:30 p.m. Ron seconded. Motion carried 4-0-0.

The next meeting will be held August 14, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in the Matthew Thornton Room, East Wing.

Respectfully Submitted

Bess-Arden Parks
Acting Secretary