

**MERRIMACK AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION
MINUTES
AUGUST 14, 2019**

Meeting brought to order by Chairman Bob McCabe at 7:06 pm.

Present: Ron Miner III, Bess Parks

Absent: Paul Drone, Don Miner

Comments from the Press or Public

New Business:

- a. SUMMER MARKET: August is "Eat Local" month, and the summer market has a large variety of fresh produce on Wednesday 3-6 pm at Vault Storage parking lot, D.W. Highway North. Fresh corn is now available, with a new bread vendor joining the line-up. From ocean fresh fish, to honey, maple syrup, wine, specialty sauces, teas, and pain relief products; the market continues to see increased customer traffic as the summer season progresses. Embroidery by Aunt Betty has ready-made items for sale, but also offers custom sewing and alteration services.
- b. COMMUNITY GARDEN: Bob has been approached by the Merrimack TV channel 20 to present a 90 second segment on the Community Garden. The gardeners have been notified for those available to participate at the time of filming. The filming should take place within the next two weeks. Gardeners have had good crops this season, with minimal pest damage. The garden will close on or around the weekend of October 12th-13th, 2019.
- c. 4-H DONATION FOR NEW BOSTON FAIR: The check for \$550.00 has been signed for the \$50.00 Blue Seal gift certificates to be presented at the New Boston Agricultural Fair September 6th-8th, 2019 to the eleven first place winners in their respected classes. Ron will deliver the check to the Milford, NH, Blue Seal manager who will present the gift certificates to the winners.
- d. MEMBERSHIP: Tabled.
- e. BUG ALERT: Bob advises continued vigilance regarding corn borer invasion. Larvae from the European corn borer chews leaves, tassels and bore into the stalk. They feed inside the plant until they reach maturity and pupate. Damage includes plants being stunted, resulting in yield reductions caused by the inability of the plant to transport water and nutrients through its damaged stalk. New European corn borer resistant corn hybrids have been genetically engineered to produce their own insecticide, the Bacillus thuringiensis (Bt) delta endotoxin. (Bt) corn has the potential to simplify management and effectively control corn borers throughout the season. Ticks continue to be problematic, use precautionary measures when out of doors.
- f. UPCOMMING WORKSHOPS: See Attached.
- g. HORSE SENSE: (ANHIDROSIS). A diagnosis of Anhidrosis is unwelcome news, especially for performance horses. Horses with this affliction will not sweat, which is essential for a horse to cool

its muscles and internal organs. A horse that cannot sweat will quickly overheat and be in danger of heat stroke. This condition is rarely seen in horses that live in temperate climates, more often in tropical or southern states. The cause is not known, and the onset can be startlingly sudden. The horses sweat glands become over stimulated and the stress may cause them to malfunction. The result is a horse that sweats very little or not at all. A horse with Anhidrosis will not perform well in hot weather, and its respiration rate stays higher than normal after exercise. It's body temperature, measured with a rectal thermometer may also be slightly elevated. Keep horses with Anhidrosis as cool as possible during hot, humid weather. Employ cool mist, sponging, fans, shade or stall rest to keep the horse as comfortable as possible. There are supplements available to aid horses with Anhidrosis, but best to consult your veterinarian for the product that will best treat your horse with this condition.

- h. TREASURER'S REPORT: Revised as of August 12, the Agricultural Commission Farmer's Market Fund Account is \$5,449.93. The Community Garden Fund Account is \$2,022.57, with a combined total of \$7,472.50. The Winter Market Fund Account is \$165.42.
- i. MINUTES: The July 10 minutes were read, with Ron making the motion to accept, Bess seconded, motion carried 3-0-0.

No Comments from the Press or Public.

Comments from the Commission: Ron spoke of making improvements to the existing message board at the Community Gardens. He will present some ideas in making the board more user friendly at the September 11th, 2019 meeting. Through sales of the (Give Back Where It Counts Bag), Shaw's customers have donated \$5.00 to the Merrimack Community Garden at Wasserman Park to support the important work the commission does in the community. The commission appreciates the support of the community they call home.

Motion to Adjourn: Ron made the motion to adjourn, Bess seconded, motion carried 3-0-0.

The next meeting will be held September 11, 2019 at 7:00 pm in the Matthew Thornton Room, East Wing.

Respectfully Submitted

Bess-Arden Parks
Acting Secretary