

**MERRIMACK AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION
MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 11, 2019**

Meeting brought to order by Chairman Bob McCabe at 7:04 p.m.

Present: Paul Drone, Ron Miner III, Bess Parks

Absent: Don Miner

Comments from the Press or Public:

New Business:

- a. SUMMER MARKET: Wednesday, September 11, farmers market was well attended, with ten vendors and steady customer traffic. From specialty teas, wine, sauces, fresh baked goods, honey and maple products; the line-up also includes a fish monger, locally grown vegetables/fruits, natural pain relief products, embroidery/sewing and massage therapy services. The market is open from 3-6 p.m. every Wednesday until October 9, 2019. There will be no winter market for the 2019/2020 season, with consideration to continue for the 2020/2021 winter season when a suitable venue is located.
- b. COMMUNITY GARDEN: The Community garden will be closed as of October 13, 2019. Gardeners have been notified to have all produce harvested, plots cleared of fencing or other ornamentation. Bob will mow, rototill and spread winter rye as a cover crop on October 14, 2019. Bob has requested \$125.00 for the purchase of four bags of winter rye. Paul made the motion to approve, up to \$125.00 to purchase four bags of winter rye for application to the community garden. Ron seconded; motion carried 4-0-0. Per Ron's suggestion that the message board receive a fresh look, a new coat of paint will be applied before the garden opens again in the spring of 2020.
- c. 4-H DONATIONS: Ron reported all went smoothly at the Hillsborough County Fair held, September 6-8, 2019 in New Boston, NH. Jolee Chase, 4-H manager sent a note on behalf of the 4-H members thanking the commission for continued sponsorship of the animal shows at the fair. A banner indicating Best in Show was presented along with a Blue Seal gift certificate for \$ 50.00 to the eleven first place winners.
- d. BUG ALERT: Many varieties of winged bugs, caterpillars and worms are still out in the gardens and foliage as fall approaches. Mosquitos carrying the triple EEE virus is a major concern. Eastern Equine Encephalitis (sleeping sickness), is a rare cause of brain infections, is most often fatal in equines, and approximately 30% of people die. Those who survive have neurologic problems. Ticks continue to be rampant.
- e. UPCOMING WORKSHOPS/SEMINARS: See Attached
- f. HORSE SENSE: EASTERN EQUINE ENCEPHALITIS: With several horses both in New Hampshire and Massachusetts dying from Triple EEE this year, many veterinarians are recommending that horses under the age of two, and over the age of twenty-five, or any horse on steroids receive a booster. Core vaccines include Eastern/Western/Tetanus, West

Nile and Rabies. Vaccinating your horses is a small expense for their health and wellbeing than having to euthanize an animal for something that could have been prevented.

- g. TREASURER'S REPORT: The Agricultural Commission Farmer's Market Fund Account is \$5,109.93. The Community Garden Fund Account is \$1,977.57, with a combined total of \$7,087.50. The Winter Farmer's Market Fund Account is \$165.42.
- h. MINUTES: The August 14, 2019 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: Paul mentioned to be aware of wildlife that are more visible throughout the fall season. Bob brought to the commission's attention a special pesticide license course he would like to attend in the spring on turf and ornamentals. The course cost in \$150.00, and \$150.00 for the core study manual. Bob asked the commission for consideration to approve the \$300.00 when the course becomes available.

Motion to Adjourn: Paul made the motion to adjourn, Ron seconded, motion carried 4-0-0.

The next meeting will be held October 9, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in the Matthew Thornton Room, East Wing.

Respectfully Submitted

Bess-Arden Parks
Acting Secretary