

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

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

Present: Paul Drone, Ron Miner III, Bess Parks

Absent: Don Miner

Comments from the Press or Public

NEW BUSINES:

- a. SUMMER FARMERS MARKET: Bob has been contacted by a new maple vendor from Barnstead, who will also have cow's milk soap, chicken and eggs available. Contracts for the current 20 vendors will be mailed out after January 1st, 2020, along with a general mailing to potential vendors.
- b. COMMUNITY GARDEN: Bob reports that the rye grass seeded in October has sprouted with a good cover crop for the garden plots.
- c. AGRICULTURE SIGN AT TRANSFER STATION: Due to recent inclement weather the new sign will be put in place when weather and accessibility permits. Paul and Ron will assist Bob with this project.
- d. SCHOLARSHIP IDEAS/4-H: Paul will check on the grade status of the four students to receive \$500.00 scholarship presented to them at graduation in 2019. The monies will be given to the students after their second college semester. Bob also reminded Merrimack 4-H members needing financial assistance, due to an emergency in caring for their livestock to contact the commission at (bob.mccabe@comcast.net)
- e. CLASSES/SEMINARS: See Attached.
- f. BUG ALERT: Winter and cold temperatures is a dormant period for many invasive species. Ticks, however, can still present a problem. Cautionary measures should be taken year-round for humans, pets and livestock.
- g. HORSE SENSE: Equine Anaplasmosis is a tick-borne disease caused by a bacterium that infects white blood cells. Clinical signs can appear in an infected horse one to three weeks after exposure to ticks carrying *Aphagocytophilum*. Fever is the principal clinical sign and might last up to 10 days. Other common signs include depression, ventral edema (swelling of the limbs and beneath the chest/abdomen), ataxia, muscle stiffness and the inability to rise. This organism typically infects horses from late fall to early spring and is spread via deer ticks and Western black-legged tick) Consult your veterinarian immediately for treatment if your horse presents any of these symptoms. To Blanket or Not: A horse's blanketing needs depends on the horse's activities during the winter. A healthy horse in good condition, fed enough calories from forage to produce enough heat in the hind gut and maintain proper weight, will not need additional blanketing if kept dry during inclement weather. A clipped horse used in regular riding exercises, an older horse with difficulty

maintaining a healthy weight, or one in poor condition should be blanketed. Driving or riding horses should have a quarter sheet over the loin area to avoid chilling when used in cold temperatures. Hot, sweaty horses should be cooled off properly with light or sweat sheet, walked until dry, and groomed before turning out. Horses should always have, at least, a three-sided shelter for protection from the weather in all seasons.

- h. TREASURERS REPORT: Balances as of November 30, 2019. The Agricultural Commission Farmer's Market Fund Account is \$4,809.77. The Community Garden Fund Account is \$1,761.72, with a combined total of \$ 6,571.49. The Winter Farmer's Market Fund Account is \$ 165.42

MINUTES: The minutes were read with Paul making the motion to accept, Ron seconded, motion carried 4-0-0.

No Comments from the Press or Public.

No Comments from the Commission:

Motion to Adjourn: Paul made the motion to adjourn at 7:25 pm, Ron seconded, motion carried 4-0-0.

The next meeting will be held January 8, 2020 at 7:00 pm, in the Matthew Thornton Room, East Wing.

Respectfully Submitted

Bess-Arden Parks
Acting Secretary