

**MERRIMACK AGRICULTURE COMMISSION
MINUTES
JANUARY 8, 2020**

Meeting called to order by Chairman Bob McCabe at 7:00 pm.

Present: Paul Drone, Ron Miner III, Bess Parks

Absent: Don Miner

Comments from the Press or Public

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. **SUMMER MARKET:** Bob has revised the vendor contracts with sixteen mailed to those currently participating at the market. A general mailing to potential vendors will be mailed before the end of January. Board members to assist Bob with the mailing.
- b. **COMMUNITY GARDEN:** It is not too early for gardeners to make a list of “Garden Goals” for the upcoming garden season. Seed catalogs and agricultural centers such as Agway and Blue Seal offer a large selection of old favorites and new heirloom varieties of vegetables, herbs and flower seed. Pre-gardening season is also an opportunity to clean/repair or replace garden tools, along with reading up on the latest hint’s tips for a successful crop. For information to secure a garden plot at Wasserman Park for the 2020 garden season, contact Bob McCabe at (merrimackgardens@gmail.com).
- c. **ANNUAL REPORT:** Bob mentioned that the Agriculture Commission yearly letter of accomplishment, to be included in the Merrimack Annual Report, which is due Friday January 11, 2020. Bob asked board members to review last year’s report and assist in writing an update, which will be submitted for publication.
- d. **BUG ALERT:** While most pests stay in a dormant or semi-dormant stage throughout the winter months, there are some who invade our homes year-round. Be watchful for bed bugs, as they are great hitchhikers if you travel. Spiders, lady bugs, and soon ants and flies will be emerging. Ticks can be ever present out of doors year-round.
- e. **WORKSHOPS/SEMINAR’S:** See Attached.
- f. **HORSE SENSE:** Why Water is Important for Equines: The average horse will drink five to ten gallons of water per day. Providing your horse with fresh, clean water can help reduce the risk of colic, help maintain body condition and help maintain healthy digestion. Water benefits horses on many levels. The circulatory system cannot function without water. Water in saliva acts as a medium to transport food through the gastrointestinal tract. The lymphatic system removes waste products from the body and helps fight against disease. Interestingly, from Latin, Lympha means

water. The excretory systems extract urine and droppings, and water is required for excretion of tears and mucus. Most importantly, for thermoregulation (sweating). Signs of dehydration include weakness, depression, sunken eyeballs, dry mucous membranes, slowed capillary refill time and increased heart rate. Strenuous exercise and hot weather can be causes of dehydration, however, certain diseases and conditions can affect your horse's ability to maintain fluid, for example, diarrhea, fever, acute gastric dilation, intestinal obstruction or peritonitis. Always ensure you keep your horse well-watered. If you have any doubts, consult your veterinarian.

- g. TREASURERS'S REPORT: Balances as of December 31, 2019. The Agricultural Commissions 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 Account is \$165.42.
- h. MINUTES: The December 11, 2019 minutes were read with Ron making the motion to accept, Paul seconded, motion carried 4-0-0.

No Comments from the Press or Public:

Comments from the Commission: Paul reports there is currently two Merrimack seniors enrolled in the Agricultural program at Alvirne High School, in Hudson, NH. He will inquire through the school's guidance department if they would be interested in applying for an Agricultural Commission college scholarship if pursuing an agricultural related program after graduation. Paul was informed that the grade averages of the four students previously awarded scholarships needs to be obtained from the superintendent's office. The \$500.00 scholarships will then be paid directly to the students.

Motion to Adjourn: Paul made the motion to adjourn at 7:26 pm, Ron seconded, motion carried 4-0-0.

The next meeting will be held February 12, 2020 at 7:00 pm., in the Matthew Thornton Room, East Wing.

Respectfully Submitted

Bess-Arden Parks
Acting Secretary