

Approved: July 14, 2021

**MERRIMACK AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION
MINUTES
JUNE 9, 2021**

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

Present: Ron Miner III, Paul Drone, Bess Parks

Absent: Guest Speaker Bill Hines

Comments from the Press or Public:

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. **COMMUNITY GARDEN:** Fifty gardeners have rented plots at Wasserman Park, with more plots available for those contemplating raising their own fresh produce, flowers or just a pumpkin patch. A 10 x 10 plot is \$ 10.00 for Merrimack residents and \$ 15.00 for non-residents. For more information, contact Bob McCabe at (bobmccabe254@gmail.com).
- b. **4-h SUMMER CAMP – KIDS:** Bob received a note from Jolee Chase, UNH 4-H Educator to let the Commission know that both the summer camp and clinic programs have been cancelled this year (2021) due to not enough staff and lack of space to meet Covid 19 rules. The Hillsborough County Fair in New Boston, NH, will be held, and 4-H members are working hard to make it a success showing off their animals and projects they have been working on. Jolee thanked the Commission for the continued support to the Hillsborough County 4-H programs. Bob inquired if the board would consider donating to the Upreach Therapeutic Equestrian Center in Goffstown, NH. Upreach is a 501(c) 3 organization, at 153 Paige Road in Goffstown, NH 03045. The therapeutic horse experience is a mounted and unmounted equine assisted program benefiting those children and adults with a disability. The seven week summer program is \$ 380.00 dollar for one hour per week. Ron made the motion that \$ 1,200.00 dollars be donated to the Upreach Therapeutic Equestrian Center in Goffstown, NH to help defray the cost of providing children or adults with a disability the opportunity to attend the Upreach therapeutic summer programs. Paul seconded, motion carried 4-0-0.
- c. **EBER and TRUDY CURRIER MEMORIAL:** Ron contacted Proctor Trophy. An 8 x 16 plaque with clock and inscription would cost approximately \$ 135.00, taking two to four weeks to complete. Bob offered another suggestion of a wooden plaque carved by a Merrimack craftsman, which would include a carved apple tree with the memorial inscription. Bob will check on this possibility, including cost, and report back to the board at the July 14, 2021 meeting.
- d. **NOTES FROM THE MASTER GARDENER:** Bill Hines was unable to attend.
- e. **UNH EDUCATION CLASSES:** See Attached.
- f. **HORSE SENSE:** Caring for Horses During Hot Weather: Quick Facts: Provide shade, airflow (use fans) and free access to clean water during hot weather. Avoid riding when the combined air

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temperature (F) and relative humidity is over 150, especially if the horse is not acclimated to the heat. To cool an overheated horse, sponge with cool water, or if near a water source, use a hose to spray the horse continuously until the horse is cool. Signs of heatstroke: Rectal temperatures above 106F. Rapid heart and breath rates that don't decline within 20 minutes of stopping exercise. Whinnying and distress. Dehydration with dry mucous membranes and prolonged skin tents of 4-10 seconds. Muscle weakness. Incoordination or collapse. Vital signs of horses suffering from heatstroke. (Normal Adult range): Rectal temperature (f) 99.5 to 101.5 at rest, up to 103 during exercise. Over 105, suffering from heatstroke. Pulse rate (beats per minute) Normal 30-44, more than 60 heat stroke. Breathing rate (breathes per minute) Normal 8-12, More than 40 heatstroke. Consult your veterinarian right away if you suspect your horse is suffering from heatstroke.

- g. TREASURER'S REPORT: Balances for May 31, 2021 for the Agriculture Commission Farmer's Market Fund Account is \$1,353.23. The Community Garden Fund Account is \$ 1,154.01, with a combined total of \$ 2,507.24.
- h. MINUTES: Paul made the motion to accept the minutes as read, Ron seconded, motion carried 4-0-0.

No Comments from the Press or Public:

Comments from the Commission: Bob mentioned there will be a Celebration of Life for Pete and Nancy Gagnon June 26, 2021 at Willow Pond Nursery, 130 Bedford Rd., Merrimack, NH starting at noon. RSVP to (603-848-6393), all are welcome to attend.

Motion to Adjourn: Paul made the motion to adjourn at 7:50 pm. Ron seconded, motion carried 4-0-0.

The next meeting of the Agricultural Commission will be held July 14, 2021 at 7:00 pm, in the Matthew Thornton Room, East Wing.

Respectfully Submitted

Bess-Arden Parks
Acting Secretary