

**Szegda Farm Management Committee**

**Thursday, January 8, 2015**

Present: Tom McGrath, Anthony Ortiz, and Nancy Schwartz

The meeting opened at 7:25 PM.

The minutes of 11/13/14 were approved.

Audience of Citizens: Dave Bull and Bob Ulkus

Old Business:

Community Garden Report: Bob Ulkus, the volunteer garden coordinator, gave an oral report as well as a comprehensive written one. 2014 marked the 6<sup>th</sup> garden season with 22 plots and 27 gardeners participating. Overall Bob felt that the town crew provided good support with wood chip deliveries, and several hours of grading and rock removal. The large mower was out of service for 5 weeks and mowing of the lower orchard had to be abandoned. The tractor remains in fragile condition. Improvements for 2015 include lockable gates to deter theft and a policy to promote individual site cleanup at the end of the growing season.

Columbia Historical Society: Tom proposed that we pursue the possibility of setting up a 'Friends of Szegda Farm' fund under the CHS which could receive tax-exempt donations from people and corporations to further the agricultural preservation and goals of Szegda Farm.

Steward Report: Anthony walked several of the trails and reported that they looked good.

Agricultural usage of Ag units 5 & 6: no change

Water Pump: Bob reported that the SFMC will be getting an estimate for a well pump and generator with electric start that would be used instead of the hand pump for watering the garden and animals.

Budget for 2015: It's unclear if any money was put in the budget specifically for Szegda Farm and/or the garden. We need to ascertain that the DPW can continue to maintain the mowers that the volunteers use to maintain the trails and keep the weeds and ticks at bay around the garden, parking lots, and pole barn. In addition, large machinery continues to be needed to clear rocks and maintain the entrances to the property.

New Business:

Other:

The SFMC would like to express its gratitude to Jonathan Luiz for her service to the town and Szegda Farm.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Next Regular meeting: March 12, 2015

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Schwartz, secretary

Received: January 14, 2015  
At 3:48 PM  
Attest: Paul McGrath  
Town Clerk/Assistant Town Clerk ASST TC