

Szegda Farm Management Committee

Thursday, May 14, 2015

Present: Gary King, Tom McGrath, Anthony Ortiz, and Nancy Schwartz

The meeting opened at 7:01 PM.

The minutes of 3/12/15 were approved.

Audience of Citizens: David Bull, Natasha Nau (new town administrator), and Ron Szegda

Tom gave Natasha a tour of the Szegda farm property and invited her to attend this evening's meeting to help her to understand what Szegda is about and what this committee and other volunteers do to maintain the property. Since the SFMC has no budgeted funds it must rely on modest garden fees (some \$300 annually) , donations, and DPW.

Old Business:

Equipment: The large tractor failed over the weekend and Tom notified town hall. Natasha reported that George Murphy examined it, welded a part, and it is now working. Replacement parts for this machine are no longer available. Natasha stated that we will get a "retiring mower" at the end of this fiscal year. George cautioned us to be aware of rocks and to check fluid levels before use. He said that the rototiller had low engine oil.

Gary stated that all of the mowing volunteers had received training in how to use the equipment.

Nancy requested that there be clear instructions posted as to which gas to use for the rototiller, since this is available for use to all of the gardeners, not just the mowing volunteers. These instructions should also indicate checking the oil level and which oil should be used for replenishing.

Water pump: Natasha will investigate getting a gas generator to power a pump since electric service is cost prohibitive. Ron said that he would donate a 1500 holding tank for water so that the pump would only need to be run periodically. The generator could then be secured in the barn.

Budget: Natasha advised that we submit a formal detailed budget request early in the year in order to get funding in the next year's budget.

Community Garden: Ron delivered a load of composted manure in April which was much appreciated. He also has mulch hay he can deliver. The garden plots have all been claimed and tilling and planting has begun.

Steward Report: Gary walked all of the trails and said they looked good. He asked for a load of dirt to fill ruts in the trail between the 2 fields.

Agricultural usage of Ag units 5 & 6: Ron says these fields are mostly weeds. He felt the best approach would be to use Roundup to kill the weeds and then plant no-till seeds to avoid eroding the ground. We asked Natasha to investigate who can "approve" the use of chemicals, such as Roundup on the Ag units, at Szegda (SFMC, DPW, BOS, Town Administrator, or some combination?), and once the approval is made, who can apply the chemicals (anyone, volunteers from the farming community, DPW, licensed applicator?).

Other: We need to review our legal obligation to maintain the Szegda property in return for receiving matching state money.

The meeting adjourned at 8:18 PM.

Next Regular meeting: July 9, 2015

Respectfully submitted, Nancy Schwartz, secretary

Received: May 19, 2015
At 1:20 PM
Attest: Paul McGrath
Town Clerk/Assistant Town Clerk ASST TC