

Szegda Farm Management Committee

Thursday July 9, 2015

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

The meeting opened at 7:00 PM.

The minutes of 5/14/15 were approved.

Audience of Citizens: none

Old Business:

Lawn Mower: We now have a "retired" Skaag mower to replace the large tractor that has been failing repeatedly. Gary stated that he and David Bull had received training in its use and it has been working well.

Water tank: Ron Szegda delivered the water tank, and Tom notified the DPW and Bob Ulkus. It was installed by the DPW, and filled by the fire department the 3rd week in June. The water tank has a large fire hose coming out of the tank that reduces to a garden hose inside the garden. The gardeners are thrilled.

Water pump: No news.

Community Garden: Ron delivered a round bale of mulch hay on May 15 which was used by some of the gardeners to supplement the wood chips. Bob Ulkus noted wood chips might not be as available in the future, so the mulch hay might be a viable option for weed control. New locking gates have also been installed. With the warmer weather, rain, and water supplements, the plots are thriving.

Steward Report: Gary reported that there has been a noticeable increase in litter at the upper parking lot. Apparently groups of people have been hanging out and drinking, especially on the weekends. The trails themselves are in good shape, but the signage needs maintenance. Some of the trail-marking poles have rotted/fallen down and paint is faded.

Agricultural usage of Ag units 5 & 6: Tom reported that the DPW and town administrator could approve the use of herbicides and applicator on this property to control the weeds. We need to determine the best time of the year for application, as well as whether the brush/trees overhanging the fields need to be cut back first or can be done later. If we need to rely on volunteers, perhaps this work can be done in stages.

Other: Tom spoke with Andrea Stannard of the Columbia Historical Society (CHS) about the possibility of having a separate subcommittee to help preserve Szegda Farm. She indicated that would be a strong possibility if one of the SFMC members would join the CHS as chairman of such a subcommittee. She also indicated that the CHS was planning an antique car rally in September 2016 to support Szegda Farm.

Tom also said that budget requests for the 2016-17 year for town committees would be more formalized.

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM.

Next Regular meeting: September 10, 2015

Respectfully submitted, Nancy Schwartz, secretary

Received: July 10, 2015
At 11:17
Attest: Robin M. Keneff
Town Clerk/Assistant Town Clerk