

## Szegda Farm Management Committee

Thursday September 10, 2015

Present: Tom McGrath, Nancy Schwartz, and guest Bob Ulkus

The meeting opened at 7:07 PM.

The minutes of 7/09/15 were approved.

Audience of Citizens: Bob Ulkus

Old Business:

Community Garden Report: Bob gave a brief history of the Szegda Community garden, beginning from its inception over 7 years ago when he was on the committee that developed the Szegda Farm Management Plan. He has been the community garden coordinator ever since. We discussed whether it made any sense to have the community garden be a subcommittee of the SFMC. Bob indicated that would require BOS approval since it currently comes under the jurisdiction of the agriculture/conservation commission, and garden plot application and plot fees are collected by the town administrator's assistant. Those funds are placed in a restricted account and are used to purchase needed supplies such as fencing. The garden receives no other town funds. Tom offered to make the periodic requests to DPW for wood chips, clearing the weed dump, and emptying the water tank at the end of the season since he makes requests of them as well for the property. Bob indicated that the garden's master plan should be revised for possible future expansion. More garden space and raised beds for aging/disabled gardeners are possibilities. Bob felt that long-term the rec committee might be a better fit for handling the garden itself since many of the gardeners view gardening as recreation. He also indicated that the pole barn storage could be better utilized, and that we need to plan tree-line trimming near the pole barn.

Lawn Mowers and equipment: Bob recommended that we do an assessment of how much the mowers are used in order to determine how long they might be expected to last. We can do that using the hours that have been logged by volunteers and consulting with DPW.

Water pump: planned installation of an electric pump by DPW Fall 2015.

Water tank: This has been working well. We agree that it makes sense to have volunteers run the electric pump periodically to fill it.

Steward Report: Tom reported that on Oct. 23 the Boy Scouts are coming in to help with signage and posts on the trails. The hill between the upper and lower parking lots has been mowed. Tom has asked DPW to brush hog the back field entrances.

Agricultural usage of Ag units 5 & 6: Tom reported that the gate to the back lot needs to be widened for equipment access, and ruts on the dirt access road to the back lot need to be filled in. The back field perimeter needs brush hogging.

Other: We discussed painting the pole barn and having the upper parking lot plowed this winter for sledding access.

New Business:

We agreed to change the meeting date from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday every other month beginning Nov. 11.

Gifford's Brook Habitat improvement – gate and parking improvement from Rte 87 – Tom says the state stocks this brook.

Budget 2016 – Tom will be discussing this with DPW and the Town Administrator to see if it meets our needs.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Next Regular meeting: November 11, 2015

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Schwartz, secretary

Received: September 14, 2015  
At 8:45 AM  
Attest: Paul McBeth ASST  
Town Clerk/Assistant Town Clerk TC