

Town of Columbia
Szegda Farm MEETING
Draft Minutes
Thursday March 7 at 6pm
At the Adella G Urban Administrative Office Conference Room
(Submitted by: Tom McGrath Chair)

Call to Order: 6pm

Attendees: Tom McGrath, Jeremy Zurell, Leslie Brand, Deb Smith

Motion to accept Minutes from 2023/11/08: Motion Made by Leslie Brand and passed unanimously

Audience of Citizens: None

Old Business

- **Community Garden 2024 Deb Smith as SFMC garden liaison, and Leslie Brand plot coordinator/garden mentor**
 - **Deposit document review** - \$30 deposit required. To get deposit back at end of season: 1 hour of communal work per month (6 hours between May-October) . individual plot cleanup by November 1st.
 - **Survey document review:** Only 6 of 17 returned (35% response rate). Flooding concerns, Weed control along fence concerns consider more perennials along fence. Need to recruit new gardeners. Need to cover over unused plots with plastic
 - **Gardeners at the garden meetings and Facebook sharing:** Effective
 - **Plots still available?:** At least 5 maybe more.
 - **Rain has caused quite a bit of damage to the gardens from runoff coming down the hill? Is this resolved?** There is a pile of wood chips that can be moved to disrupt the water flowing into garden. Potential of moving the weed pile to a different location closer to the barn discussed
 - **Spring Cleanup of plots and fence lines needs to be done:**
 - **Hoses:** will be put out by the same people that put them away last Fall
 - **DPW should turn on water – around April 1 this year:** Leslie to contact
 - **Porta Potty is on site for approximately 6 months – Should arrive around April 1- will be there until October 15:** Leslie to contact
 - **Improvements needed around gates for rodent control**
 - **Continue perennial planting along the fence perimeter to control weeds**
 - **Other Improvements planned for 2024?** – Need DPW to cut back encroaching brush and trees
 - **EO Smith students:** Community Service hours by at least 2 students this spring
 - **Raised Bed:** There will be a new small raised bed installed as a trial this year with one gardener (Russ) to try it out. If it works well maybe more to added later.
- **Agricultural usage of Ag Units 5 & 6 – Jeremy Zurell**
 - **Soil enhancements application** – If it dries out application in April
 - **Hay Cutting**
 - **Brush Hog** – If it dries out perform some over the next several months

- **15 plus -year Anniversary Party for Szegda Farm – Community Garden to be show place** (last party was 2018 Solstice) – work with Recreation Department to celebrate Open Space in town – Tom will be working with the Rec Department and schedule something
- **Steward report (Tom McGrath)**
 - **Trails conditions:** All in good shape (Still need signage and maps updated, fixed and posted- Tom)
 - **Trail – new connector trail between upper trails and lower trails near hay field** – This trail was completed in 2023 with signs
 - **Parking lot conditions** – good shape.
 - **Power Company activity on trails/roads – no activity**
 - **Szegda Road Stonewall cleanup and spraying for 2024** – yes this will be done again unless we have DPW remove wall. Currently no plan to remove wall. Where would stones go if DPW removed?
- **Szegda Farm Approved Budget - Review 2023-2024 – Dept Fund 28**
Need to review for 2024-2025

190 Community Garden	\$0
191 Maintenance of Szegda Farm	\$0
300 General Supplies	\$750
500 Professional/Technical	\$0
515 Contracted Services	\$3500
600 Repairs & Maintenance	\$2500
Total:	\$6750
- **2024 Meeting Calendar** - every other month first Thursday mostly July on the 11th
- **Szegda Farm Bow Hunting** : Yes there were 2 hunters that participated
- **SFMC Management Plan for Agricultural Management Unit 1 - Plains Lot** – no issues at this time It appears it was cut once in 2023. But would like to schedule an audit of current conditions and get recommendations for best practices going forward
- **Other** (Correspondence, Proposed Actions) – none
- **New Business**

Adjournment: 7pm

Next Regular Meeting: May 2, 2024