

Town of Columbia
Szegda Farm MEETING **Draft Minutes**
Thursday May 2 at 6pm
At the Adella G Urban Administrative Office Conference Room
(Submitted by: Tom McGrath Chair)

Call to Order: 6:00

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

Note: January 2024 Meeting was canceled

Motion to accept Minutes from 2024/03/07 – Motion made by Leslie, 2nd by Deb, approved unanimously

Audience of Citizens: none

Old Business

- **New Rec Director Jacob Plitt just started, and Assistant Rec. Director is - Anyka Fegan ~ 860.228.8513; Recreation@columbiact.org.** I did a meet and greet with him 2024/04/25
- **Community Garden 2024 Deb Smith as SFMC garden liaison, and Leslie Brand plot coordinator/garden mentor**
 - Deposit used- **Yes**
 - Gardeners at the garden meetings and Facebook sharing for this year – **will continue**
 - Plots still available? – **1 small, 3 medium**
 - Rain has caused quite a bit of damage to the gardens from runoff coming down the hill? Is this resolved? – **gardeners considering digging a trench and running drainage pipe**
 - Spring Cleanup of plots and fence lines? Done 2024/04/20- **6 gardeners and 3 students from E.O. Smith did a lot of work covering unused plots, spreading woodchips, weeding, installing vole repellent etc.**
 - DPW should turned on water – **around April 1 this year**
 - Porta Potty is on site for approximately 6 months – **arrived around April 1-? will be there until October 15 – needs to be moved to a better site next to barn**
 - Improvements needed around gates for rodent control? – **not right now**
 - Continue planting along the fence perimeter to control weeds – **yes a part of community garden service requirements**
 - Other Improvements planned for 2024? – **more new hoses, more wood chips, help in setting up a mini greenhouse**
- **Agricultural usage of Ag Units 5 & 6 – Jeremy Zurell**
 - **Soil enhancements application** - UCONN soil test every year, Applied Lime in March, Fertilizer in April and spot weed control as needed
 - **Hay Cutting** may be coming soon this year
 - **Brush Hog** will try to do more and see about doing some in the front of property between upper and lower parking lots

- **15 plus -year Anniversary Party for Szegda Farm (purchased May 12, 2008) – 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 and another trail above that in progress
 - **Parking lot conditions** – good shape. Installing Closed at Dusk sign in upper parking area
 - **Power Company activity on trails/roads** – no activity
 - **Szegda Road Stonewall cleanup and spraying for 2024** – yes this will be done again mid June \$300
- **Szegda Farm Approved Budget - Review 2023-2024 – Dept Fund 28** – The current report seems to be missing some items. We should have less money at this time. Tom and Leslie will check with the Rec. Department and Finance Department to see what the balances are after all invoices are paid

	Balance	
190 Community Garden	\$0	\$0
191 Maintenance of Szegda Farm	\$0	\$0
300 General Supplies	\$750	\$537.20
500 Professional/Technical	\$0	\$0
515 Contracted Services	\$3500	\$3500
600 Repairs & Maintenance	\$2500	\$2500
Total:	\$6750	\$6537

- **2024 Meeting Calendar** - every other month first Thursday mostly **July on the 11th**
- **Szegda Farm Bow Hunting** status- Yes again in Fall of 2024
- **SFMC Management Plan for Agricultural Management Unit 1 - Plains Lot** – no issues at this time. Asked for Town to perform an audit of both Agricultural Management Units during 2024
- **Other** (Correspondence, Proposed Actions) – none
- **New Business** – Bobolink Project – can cattle graze in field and still receive the grant? Tom will inquire about more details - <https://www.bobolinkproject.com/>

Adjournment: 6:45

Next Regular Meeting: July 11, 2024