

## **Ordinance # 7-6: An Ordinance Providing For the Management of the Szegda Farm – a Town Owned Property**

### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this ordinance is to provide for the management of the Szegda Farm, a 132.9 acres ± parcel of open space land purchased by the Town of Columbia in fee simple on May 12, 2008, pursuant to a deed recorded in the Columbia Land Records in Volume 183 at Page 609 (the “Szegda Farm”). The management of the Szegda Farm, which lies between Szegda Road to the north and Route 87 to the south and is comprised of quality wetlands, prime agricultural soils, and priority habitat areas, shall be consistent with the requirements of the Conservation and Public Recreation Easement, recorded in the Columbia Land Records in Volume 183 at Page 614 (the “Easement”). It is the purpose of the Easement to assure that the Szegda Farm will be retained forever predominantly in its natural, scenic, forested, and/or open space condition, and to provide for opportunities for public recreation, while preventing any use on the property that will significantly impair or interfere with the conservation values or interests of the property. It is the intent of the Easement that management activities or alteration of the natural landscape or provision for access or recreation shall be consistent with the conservation purposes referenced in the Easement. Furthermore, the Easement allows for public access for passive recreational purposes, passive recreation being defined as recreational trail usage (non-motorized), recreational activities which do not require a formalized, delineated playing field or area, picnicking, fishing, hunting, non-motorized boating and environmental education.

**SECTION I** – The Board of Selectmen is charged with the responsibility of managing the Szegda Farm in a manner consistent with the terms, conditions and requirements of this Ordinance and the Easement. The Board of Selectman shall adopt, administer and prospectively amend from time to time, in their reasonable discretion a management plan to be known as the “Szegda Farm Management Plan.” All uses of the Szegda Farm shall conform to the Szegda Farm Management Plan as so established and amended from time to time. Further, the Szegda Farm Management Plan shall provide that it is to be construed in a manner consistent with the provisions of the Easement and this Ordinance.

**SECTION II** – The Board of Selectmen shall use its discretion in the management of all passive recreational uses of the property, except that of hunting.

**SECTION III** – The Board of Selectmen is authorized to enter into licenses, lease(s) and/or contracts with individuals or organizations for use of designated areas of the Szegda Farm for growing of crops, tilling the soil, clearing land, and/or construction, repair and/or demolition of structures, buildings, parking lots, and/or driveways, which use(s) shall not be inconsistent with the requirements of this Ordinance and the Easement.

**SECTION IV– Prohibited Acts:**

1. No person shall bring onto the Szegda Farm any animal, unless the animal is under full and complete control of said person. Dogs must be leashed at all times.

2. No motorized vehicles other than farm equipment, construction and/or maintenance equipment when authorized in accordance with the Szegda Farm Management Plan may be operated on or parked in any area of the Szegda Farm property except in the designated parking areas.

3. The possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages by any person on the Szegda Farm is prohibited.

4. All hunting is prohibited.

**PENALTY:** Violation of 1, 2, or 3 of the above may result in a fine of not more than \$100.00 for each occurrence.

Adopted at a Town Meeting held 12/16/08.

Amended at a Board of Selectmen meeting held 3/19/13.