

Town of Columbia
Szegda Farm Management Committee
Special Meeting

Tuesday, January 30, 2018

Present: Tom McGrath, Gary King, Nancy Schwartz, Mark Volza and guests Ann Dunnack, Bob Ulkus, and Mark Walters

The meeting opened at 6:00 PM.

The minutes of 9/7/17 were approved .

Audience of Citizens: Bob Ulkus, Ann Dunnack

Old business:

Budget Planning 2018-2019 – Mark Volza led a budget discussion for next year’s budget. It includes \$900 for a 6 month portal potty rental in addition to funds for hay field fertilizer and weed control.

10 year anniversary Szegda Farm Open Space celebration – Discussion about ways to celebrate this anniversary. June 21, the summer solstice, was proposed as a day on which to do this. Ideas discussed included a bon fire and story telling, a possible visit by the DEEP commissioner, a short star talk, food, and nature walks. We need to get this date into the town calendar and the Columbia Views (April Edition).

Steward report – Gary reported that as of 3-4 weeks ago the trails were in good shape.

Community garden 2018 - Bob presented a time line of the community garden year and a list of duties that need to be to be performed by the community garden team. Mark Volza, the rec director, handles registration and plot assignments, but other volunteers are needed for other duties.

Fencing – Mark Volza is investigating several options for the new fence installation. If it’s to be done in this budget year we would need to know by April 1 and the installation should occur in May prior to Memorial Day to allow the ground to dry out and to enable the preliminary site work to be completed. Otherwise it would be better to do it next fall.

Water pump/tank startup for 2018 – This should occur by May 15. The system can be shutdown any time in October.

Szegda Road stonewall cleanup – It is felt that if the town can keep the stone wall area along the road mowed that we should not have to have it sprayed this year. Bob suggested that there may be alternate treatments that could be used on the stone wall in the garden area if the poison ivy reappears.

Agriculture usage of Ag units 5 & 6 – Unclear about what will happen to these units in 2018.

Gifford’s Brook trout habitat improvement, gate and parking improvement from Rt 87 – no plans to proceed with this at this time.

Winter sledding, hiking, snowshoeing, x-c skiing for 2018 – some usage has been noted. So far there has been limited snow.

New business:

The meeting adjourned at 7:19 PM. Next Regular meeting: March 27, 2018

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Schwartz, SFMC secretary