

Town of Columbia

Szegda Farm Management Committee

Thursday, July 19, 2018 9:00AM

Szegda Farm Pole Barn

Present: Tom McGrath, Gary King, Nancy Schwartz, Marc Volza and guest Bob Ulkus

The meeting opened at 9:10 AM.

The minutes of 5/22/18 were approved .

Audience of Citizens: Bob Ulkus

Old business:

Correspondence, Proposed Actions – a list of suggested future improvements to be made to the property, submitted by David Bull and Bob Ulkus, was reviewed and discussed. The list included fencing considerations, equipment maintenance and replacement, and possible filling and leveling for future events.

10 year anniversary celebration – June 21 – summer solstice – this event was an unqualified success. There were a variety of activities for the whole family. The Boy Scouts did a tremendous parking job. The weather cooperated and after dark we were able to see several planets up close thanks to the telescopes brought by the Hartford Astronomy club.

Budget Review 2018-2019 – The portable toilet has been available since the summer solstice event. There are funds available should additional road weed control and hay field chemicals be needed.

Steward report – Gary stated that the trails are all in good shape thanks to Tom's hard work. He mentioned that 2 empty cases of alcohol were found near the bench by the upper trails parking lot. More empty beer cans were noted over the stone wall. Bob mentioned that the neighbors next to the parking lot stated at the Summer Solstice event that they have registered several complaints with the State Police with respect to the activity that goes on in the upper lot in the evening but they didn't respond. Additional signage and a gate were discussed. Further discussion will be held with Mark Walter on this issue.

Community garden 2018 – Bob mentioned that there are two plots that are not being properly maintained. He also reiterated that he will be retiring as the garden steward after this season. He has supplied a list of garden steward duties to be taken over by the community gardeners next year. The plan is to have each gardener be responsible for a task on his list.

New fencing will be installed sometime this fall. Before the meeting began Bob and Marc staked out the new garden dimensions. A contractor was due later that day to give an installation cost and time estimate.

Note: There will be no community garden potluck dinner this year.

Szegda Road stonewall cleanup - Bob reiterated that the gardeners will be trying non-poisonous treatments against the poison ivy if it reappears.

Agriculture usage of Ag units 5 & 6 – no news

New business:

New meeting date and time- beginning in September 2018, the SFMC meetings will be held at 6 PM on the first Thursday night of alternating months (before CCAG), i.e. Sept. 6, Nov. 1, Jan. 3

The meeting adjourned at 10:40 AM.

Next Regular meeting: September 6, 2018 at 6PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Schwartz, SFMC secretary