

Town of Columbia

Szegda Farm Management Committee

Thursday, September 7, 2017

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

The meeting opened at 6:00 PM.

The minutes of 5/24/17 and 7/12/17 were approved.

Audience of Citizens: Bob Ulkus

Old business:

Steward report – Tom cut the trails a month ago and they were in good shape then. He commented that the tires of the walk-behind tractor need to be inflated each time he uses it. Otherwise the equipment is in good shape. He's had to fill the gas cans frequently due to the generous precipitation and vegetation growth this year.

Community garden 2017- Bob presented a map showing the new garden layout after the new fencing is installed. He noted that he and other gardeners would like stone dust garden paths instead of the wood-chip covered paths that require extra maintenance. Next year will be his last as garden coordinator. Most likely several individuals will absorb his responsibilities. He will write up something for the new quarterly town newsletter which will debut the week of Oct. 23.

Pot luck dinner Wednesday, August 23 – This went well. We will plan a larger celebration for the 10th anniversary of the garden next year.

Fencing – The new fencing and poles are currently in the pole barn. DPW does not have time to install it this fall due to other commitments. George also feels that it should be professionally installed and there is no money in this year's budget to do it. Mark will call some local companies to get installation quotes. Depending on the cost, money might be found for a fall installation. We need to notify the gardeners before mid-October about the fence status. If it's not to be installed this year then we need to move the new fencing to a more secure location and repair the old.

Water pump/tank shutdown for 2017 – Bob commented that the water system worked well this year. It needs to be shut off and drained before the ground freezes. He stated that anytime after the end of September would be fine. Garden plots must be cleared by Nov. 15.

Szegda Road stonewall cleanup – The spraying is complete. Tom hopes to remove the remaining poles and barbed wire so that the town crew can maintain visibility via cutting. The gardeners would rather not have spraying near the garden. There is a problem with poison ivy on the wall; however it hasn't been a problem in the garden proper yet.

Agriculture usage of Ag units 5 & 6 – Walt cut and baled this year's hay. It is not high quality – his cows would not eat it. Nothing has been applied to these lots in 2017.

Gifford's Brook trout habitat improvement, gate and parking improvement from Rt 87 – The power company is currently working there. A temporary boardwalk is in place over some wetlands and some cleanup is being done. They will reseed the area when done.

Winter sledding, hiking, snowshoeing, x-c skiing for 2017-18 – possible activities can be noted in the new newsletter.

New business:

Port-a-potty – We discussed the desirability of having a port-a-potty available somewhere behind the polebarn during gardening/hiking season. Mark will investigate the cost of a seasonal rental.

Meeting time/day change – We voted to change our regular meeting day/time from the 2nd Wednesday at 7PM of alternate months to the 2nd Thursday at 6 PM of every other month.

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 PM.

Next Regular meeting: November 9, 2017

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Schwartz, SFMC secretary