

Town of Columbia

Szegda Farm Management Committee

Wednesday, November 9, 2016

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

The meeting opened at 7:06 PM.

The minutes of 9/19/16 were approved.

Audience of Citizens:

Old business:

First Annual Columbia Classic Car Show- was held on the rain date, Sunday 10/2/16 with 52 vehicles present. Gary reported that a total of \$1202 was raised for Szegda farm, which includes \$100 profit from the beverages we sold. We discussed ideas for improvements for next year including using a facebook page and adding additional activities.

Steward report – Tom mowed the trails last week and reported that they were in good shape.

Agriculture usage of Ag units 5 & 6- Gary reported that Walt Tabor's work on the back lot seems have been effective esp. by the stone wall. Walt may be able to mow it one more time before winter.

Lawn mowers and equipment – the rototiller that caught fire during use and burned has been removed. We discussed the possibility of having a fire extinguisher available in the event of another equipment fire, along with the requisite training for the mowing volunteers.

Community garden – Bob provided the annual garden report for 2016 and reviewed the highlights and proposed timeline. Mark Volza, town rec director, will be attending the SFMC meetings since the rec department will be taking over the garden registration. Mark plans to provide online registration via the town website. He will check on the status of the garden fence replacement in the current year's plan. Ron Szegda delivered a final load of manure and hay in October which has been fully utilized. Eagle project raised gardens – Bob filled the low raised bed with the soil delivered by DPW.

Gifford's Brook trout habitat improvement gate and parking improvement from Rte 87 – Tom has received the report from DEEP of their habitat study. The report shows that trout, bass, and suckers were found and that the stream on the other side of 87 is better for fish than the Szegda side. We will discuss possible improvements that can be made at a later date.

New business: none

The meeting adjourned at 8:27 PM.

Next Regular meeting: January 11, 2017

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Schwartz, SFMC secretary