

Town of North Stonington, CT
HEWITT FARM COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Monday, July 22, 2013 at 3:00 p.m
New Town Hall Conference Room

The meeting of the Hewitt Farm Committee was called to order by Nita Kincaid at 3:03 p.m. in the New Town Hall Conference Room with members Ellie Banker, Jack Brown, Cindy Faucher, Ed Harasimowitz, Ed McGowan and Nita Kincaid present. First Selectman Nicholas Mullane joined the meeting at 3:30 to describe the plans for the Hewitt Dam reconstruction project.

1) Approve 07/08/2013 Meeting Minutes

Eddie motioned and Cindy seconded to approve the 07/08/2013 Meeting Minutes as corrected. The motion carried.

2) Update the *Work Plan* to 2013

Nita explained the background of the *Work Plan* and noted changes and updates that have been made to it since it was created. The list has not been updated since early 2012, though many of the projects have been underway. She suggested that the group review the items on the list, indicate their current status and then prioritize unfinished items.

Jack and Nita read the items and the group added comments reflecting progress-to-date and/or the best approach to take. During the course of this review, Jack expressed the need to get volunteers involved in some of the projects and maintenance items that need to be handled at the farm. He suggested that a volunteer might be willing to be in charge of a project with a committee member being the contact person.

Ed H. said that he would draft a “volunteer work project form” for the committee to discuss at the next meeting. Such a form would describe the type of work to be done, needed skills, equipment, etc.

Nita will incorporate the comments and updates in the *Work Plan*, so the group can then identify priorities and lead people for items. The group also added ten new items to the list.

3) Dam re-construction

First Selectman Mullane attended a portion of the meeting in response to the committee's request for an update on the plans for the Hewitt Dam reconstruction project. Before discussing the dam, Mr. Mullane informed the committee that he had recently attended a session on Connecticut regulations and procedures for burning. As a result of the information received, he did not feel that burning the very large brush pile near the Community Garden would be feasible and he intended to pursue finding some way to use a chipper in that area. The less heavy brush piles at the outskirts of the hayfields might be burnable this winter.

Using engineer's drawings of the dam area, Mr. Mullane then described that the two west and center spillways will be combined into a single spillway approximately 45 feet long with a steel bridge installed over it to support the length of the span. The current east spillway will be inspected and repaired if necessary and there will be no change in the width of the roadway.

It is hoped that the majority of the back wall may be retained without re-building. The large stump and all vegetation around the dam will be removed. This task will be performed under contract, not by the Highway Department.

Work on the dam will not begin until after the damaged retention wall in the village has been repaired. The Town's intention is to complete the entire dam project this year. All investigation has been completed, information gathered and plans finalized, and the Board of Selectmen are awaiting information from engineer Acimovic so they can "go out for bid."

Jack asked Mr. Mullane if it would be possible to locate four parking spaces on either side of the dam to enable year-round parking by fishermen. Mr. Mullane noted that he would check on this, as it might be doable without additional cost.

Nita stated that she would like the roadway to be "friendly to horse crossing." Mr. Mullane will investigate that also.

Members of the group thanked Mr. Mullane for the update and noted that they will remain attentive to the project as it moves forward.

4) Greene Gables Meeting

The committee is still awaiting the Board of Selectmen to identify a date with the Historical Society. Jack suggested that we target a September deadline, which is when the NSHS restarts their monthly meetings.

5) Revised Trail Map

Nita showed the group a proof of the *Trail Map*, which Coop had updated to show the location of the Butterfly Garden and Community Garden. The label "Greene Gables" had been moved on the map to make room for the Community Garden symbol. The committee noted that the new location of the label could be misleading and agreed that it should be put back to its original location. Nita will discuss the recommended change with Coop.

5) Public comments and questions

- No members of the public were present.

6) Priorities for August 5, 2013 agenda

- To be determined by the Co-chairs

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Recorded by Ellie Banker

Respectfully submitted by Richard B. Cooper & Nita Kincaid