

Town of North Stonington, CT
HEWITT FARM COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Monday, January 27, 2014 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 3:10 p.m. in the New Town Hall Conference Room with members Ellie Banker, Jack Brown, Dick (Coop) Cooper, Cindy Faucher and Nita Kincaid present.

1) Approve 01/06/2014 Meeting Minutes

Ellie motioned and Cindy seconded to approve the 01/06/2014 Meeting Minutes. The motion carried.

2) Purchase of Permanent Trail Signs

Coop showed the group a sample trail sign that he had received from Jeff Danforth of *Danforth Signs & Carving*. The sign demonstrates all the design characteristics requested in the PRELIMINARY specification sheet except for the size of the mounting holes. Jeff stated when he sent the sample that he strongly recommends 1/4" diameter holes instead of 3/16" and that the committee should examine the sample to see that 1/4" actually better suits its needs. The committee did so and agreed that the mounting holes should be 1/4" diameter. Jack stated that if necessary the holes could always be drilled larger.

Coop also distributed a written proposal that Jeff had submitted and told the group that he informed Jeff the committee would very likely be making a few changes to the signs before voting to authorize their purchase.

Nita motioned and Cindy seconded for Coop to communicate these changes back to Jeff and to ask him to provide a final proposal, which reflects the changes and includes the full cost, including shipping. The motion carried unanimously. Coop will also come to an agreement with Jeff on how the payments will be made.

3) Planning for Route 2 Entrance Sign

Several days before the meeting, Jack had identified a possible location for the new Route 2 Entrance Sign and marked nearby trees, so committee members could see the location for themselves. Following discussion, the group agreed that the proposed site was too distant from the Hewitt Road entrance and the sign's orientation, parallel to the roadway, would make it difficult to see.

Since there are two identical signs, the group decided to investigate the possibility of erecting them both in the same location, perhaps back-to-back and perpendicular to the roadway, such that one sign is visible to eastbound traffic and the other to westbound traffic. The signs could possibly be located inside the triangular plot at the entrance to Hewitt Road, on top of a small earthen mound. The committee agreed to visit the entrance and bring one of the signs, so they could evaluate what would work best.

4) Parking on the Green

Prior to the meeting, Jack had placed a number of bollards along the interior Hewitt Road in the area of the Green to determine if such a location could accommodate visitor parking. He also placed bollards near the Welcome Sign entrance, in the two areas currently marked with "NO PARKING BEYOND THIS POINT" signs.

The group agreed the bollards near the Welcome Sign entrance could remain and the signs should be removed. There was no decision made on the placement of bollards on the Green. It was suggested if they do remain, there should be fewer of them.

5) Rental Property Inspection Report

Nita stated that there are a few things observed during the rental property inspections that need to be done as appropriate maintenance work. Among them is hiring an exterminator to treat the 1750 Farm House basement. Nita will be responsible for follow-up.

Ellie questioned whether the tenants of the 1750 Farm House had moved their BBQ grill to a safe location, as had been requested last year. Ellie was told that they had.

6) Community Garden Agreement

Nita stated that the 2014 written agreement between the Community Garden Association and Town of North Stonington has been signed by all parties and returned to the Town.

Jack stated that he had spoken to association member Bill Ricker about moving the compost pile to the southeast side of the garden once spring activities resume.

7) Hayfield Agreement

Nita stated that the written agreement between farmers Daniels and Lewis, and the Town of North Stonington has been signed by all parties and returned to the Town.

The brush piles that resulted from clearing the borders of the North, South and West Hayfields last spring have been burned after the First Selectman provided a burn permit.

8) Hewitt Dam

Nita reported that the Board of Selectmen is continuing to pursue the Hewitt Dam re-construction project, but the construction plans will be reviewed to determine a more current estimated cost.

If such review is conducted, committee members suggested asking whether the possibility will exist for changing the bridge from a full two-lane standard highway design to one that is more appropriate to a park-like setting in cost, appearance and traffic calming.

9) Annual Report

Nita described the information she planned to include in the *2013 Annual Report* to the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance. She indicated she would forward the draft to the committee for comments prior to submission.

10) Annual Budget

Nita outlined what she would include in the *2014 Annual Budget* for submission to the Board of Selectmen. The group agreed that she should complete the report as described and submit it without additional approval.

Nita informed the group (to cheers) that the Hewitt Farm purchase debt had been paid-off by the Town earlier in January.

11) Public comments and questions

- None

12) Priorities for February 17, 2014 agenda

- To be determined by the co-chairs

The meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Richard B. Cooper