

Town of North Stonington, CT
HEWITT FARM COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Monday, February 10, 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 3:07 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 01/27/2014 Meeting Minutes

Ellie motioned and Cindy seconded to approve the 01/27/2014 Meeting Minutes, as corrected. The motion carried.

2) Purchase of Permanent Trail Signs

Coop reported that he had sent the final specifications for the design of permanent trail signs to Jeff Danforth of *Danforth Signs & Carving*, but had not yet received a written proposal back from him.

3) Planning for Route 2 Entrance Sign

The group agreed that due to the piles of snow at the Route 2 entrance to Hewitt Farm, the site visit to investigate a good location for the new entrance sign should be postponed until a future date.

4) Annual Budget

Nita distributed a copy of the final budget proposal that she had submitted to the Board of Selectmen. The report identifies individual sources of revenue for Hewitt Farm and includes a spending request for the 2014/2015 fiscal years, which is the same as the amount requested for the prior two years. There was a brief discussion about the Highway Department charges for work they do at Hewitt Farm.

5) Hewitt Dam

Nita stated that First Selectman Nick Mullane had recently informed her that he would be moving forward with obtaining quotes for the reconstruction of Hewitt Dam. Mr.

Mullane indicated that there have been a few modifications made by the engineer to the earlier plan. Mr. Acimovic, the engineer, will be providing an update to the Selectmen and the committee soon.

Cindy stated that she had asked a local engineer to "look at" the plans for the project. The engineer told her that he did not see an indication of a steel bridge over the spillways. The committee questioned why a relatively inexpensive bridge could not be built, considering the road is only a single-lane "park" road and does not receive the level of traffic of a Secondary Road. Cindy noted that she had been told that the involvement of FEMA funding might necessitate certain standards.

Jack suggested that the committee might not have an opportunity to request design changes even if such changes could achieve a lower cost. It was decided that the Co-chairs should communicate to Mr. Mullane that the committee would like to be briefed on details of the most current plans.

6) Harvest Festival

Nita distributed a copy of the notes she had taken at the Harvest Festival organizational meeting on February 6th. She noted that the meeting was attended by a representative from each involved group: Karen McGee, representing the North Stonington Garden Club; Mary Ann Ricker, representing the Community Garden Association; and Nita, representing the Hewitt Farm Committee. Specific items addressed at this meeting included (a) selection of the event's date and times, (b) specific goals of the event, (c) identification of who the event should attract and who should participate, (d) determination of possible types of activities, (e) potential costs, (f) expected use of grounds and parking, (g) needed publicity, and (h) a schedule of future planning sessions.

She reviewed her notes with the committee item-by-item and ended by stating that, unless the committee has a strong preference for the start-finish time, the other representatives who attended the meeting could make that decision. Hewitt Farm Committee members indicated a preference for the event starting at a time that gives all participants enough time to "set up," and not extending beyond four o'clock in the afternoon.

The committee also discussed the possibility of having one or more musical groups participate in the event. It was recognized that the lack of electricity on site makes it difficult to attract musical groups. Coop said he would ask a friend who works for CL&P about what types of provisions could be made. The group indicated that access to electricity is a problem they would like to solve.

The Harvest Festival planning group will meet again on February 27th.

7) Public comments and questions

- None

8) Priorities for February 24, 2014 agenda

- To be determined by the co-chairs

The meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Richard B. Cooper