

Town of North Stonington, CT
HEWITT FARM COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Monday, February 24, 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 Jack Brown, Dick (Coop) Cooper, Ed Harasimowitz and Nita Kincaid present. Committee members Ellie Banker and Cindy Faucher arrived at 3:12 p.m. and 3:20 p.m. respectively.

1) Hewitt Dam Project

Nita informed the group that First Selectman Nick Mullane has requested the engineer responsible for the plans for the Hewitt Dam reconstruction to attend a Board of Selectmen's meeting sometime in the near future. Mr. Mullane will notify the Hewitt Farm Committee of the date of that meeting. Nita suggested that in addition to learning the engineer's plans for Hewitt Dam, the meeting might also provide a good opportunity for the committee to present its *2013 Annual Report* and *2014 Budget Request* to the selectmen.

After discussion, the group agreed that it would attend the selectmen's meeting with the engineer, when it is held and that Nita will present the two reports at that time.

2) Approve 02/10/2014 Meeting Minutes

Jack motioned and Ellie seconded to approve the 02/10/2014 Meeting Minutes. The motion carried.

3) Route 2 Entrance Sign

The group discussed the advantages and disadvantages of different locations for the new Route 2 Entrance Sign. It concluded that the most visible location is probably the center of the island at the Route 2 entrance to Hewitt Road. The committee decided to visit the site to determine what other possible locations exist.

4) Planning for the Harvest Festival

Nita presented a list of possible activities that could be performed at the Harvest Festival. There is currently a three member planning group with a representative from each of the sponsoring groups (Community Garden, Garden Club and Hewitt Farm Committee). Nita said this group, which she is leading, is still looking for additional suggestions. She also stated that the event could be used to acquaint more people with the features of Hewitt Farm and the kinds of things that they can do there.

Members of the committee suggested a scavenger hunt, hay rides, cooking by the Boy Scouts, and other ideas. The Harvest Festival planning group will meet again on February 27th.

5) Permanent Trail Signs

Coop distributed a map of Hewitt Farm showing where all the new permanent trail signs will be located. Thirty signs have been ordered and should arrive soon. They will be installed after the weather warms considerably so as not to damage trees.

Coop also noted, with regard to Harvest Festival planning, that the Hewitt Farm trail system might lend itself to some type of scavenger hunt, treasure hunt, letter-box, or geocaching type of event.

6) Additional items for discussion

Jack suggested that the opening in the stonewall at the southeastern corner of the North Hayfield be opened wider to accommodate vehicles. Coop noted that there is a barway some 50 feet to the west of that, which is used by the hay farmers and that he uses when mowing the trails. It appears to be adequate.

Jack stated that the committee should be receiving periodic status reports from the Historical Society on the progress of its Greene Gables recommendations. The group agreed and Nita stated she would communicate this request to Frank Eppinger.

7) Public comments and questions

- None

8) Priorities for March 10, 2014 agenda

- To be determined by the co-chairs

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Richard B. Cooper