

Town of North Stonington, CT
HEWITT FARM COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Monday, March 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 3:00 p.m. in the New Town Hall Conference Room with members Ellie Banker, Jack Brown, Dick (Coop) Cooper, Cindy Faucher, Ed Harasimowitz and Nita Kincaid present. Mary Ann Ricker, representing the North Stonington Community Garden Association, arrived at 3:55 p.m.

(1) Approve 03/10/2014 Meeting Minutes

Cindy motioned and Ed seconded to approve the 03/10/2014 Meeting Minutes. The motion carried.

2) Buon Appetito lease transfer

Nita informed the committee that the Board of Selectmen has recently approved a Resolution related to the Buon Appetito lease. The Buon Appetito lease is held by *Georgiadis Holdings, LLC*. The resolution allows Fotis Georgiadis to transfer his interest in *Georgiadis Holdings, LLC* to Sander Marku. This transfer will allow Sander Marku to become a leasee of the restaurant. His brother, Petrit Marku, will remain as the other restaurant leasee. Mr. Georgiadis will no longer be involved. Nita also recounted a brief history of the restaurant lease from the time the Town purchased the property until present.

3) 1750 Farm House changes

Nita told the committee that within the past two weeks the stove in the 1750 Farm House became inoperable and was replaced. The cost of the stove (approximately \$300) will be charged to the Hewitt Farm line item in the current *Town Budget*.

Nita also noted that an earlier inspection of the Farm House had indicated a need for attention by an exterminator. She and First Selectman Mullane are following up on this.

Ed asked if all residential leases for calendar year 2014 have been signed and are in effect. Nita assured him they were.

5) Harvest Festival preparations

Nita reaffirmed that the group planning the Harvest Festival will have to wait until the **third week in May** before proceeding with detailed plans. The purpose for this "wait-and-see" is to determine if the dam reconstruction work will be underway on the date of the event. Such a determination will be made based upon the status of the *Request for Proposals* by mid-May.

Nita suggested there might be alternative possibilities as to where and how the event could be held. For example, the event could focus on agriculture and then be held in the Community Garden area instead of on The Green. Jack added that during the dam's reconstruction it would be necessary to maintain open access to the Community Garden.

4) Greene Gables resolution

Jack asked if the committee had heard anything back from the North Stonington Historical Society with regard to the Greene Gables resolution. Nita responded in the negative, whereupon Jack proposed that a letter be sent to the Historical Society requesting continuous updates, possibly in the form of a "quarterly status report" in order to keep the committee apprised of progress. Nita will prepare this correspondence.

5) Purchase of permanent Trail Signs

Coop thanked Cindy for providing the committee with a typed record of the contents of all the Bicentennial Trail signs. Cindy had accomplished this by transcribing from photographs of these signs, which provide an interesting history of North Stonington.

Coop stated that he had received the full shipment of trail signs from Danforth Signs & Carving, as ordered and in good condition. He has sent Mr. Danforth a check for the full payment along with a letter of thanks and appreciation for his work.

Coop showed a sample of the type of screws he proposing using to mount the signs, but was informed by Ed that there might be better alternatives. Ed will supply the proper screws.

Jack stated that he had collected wooden posts that could be used to mount trail signs and that they were being stored at the Town Garage.

6) Dam reconstruction project

At the committee's 03/04/2014 meeting with Karl Acimovic, engineer for the Hewitt Dam Project, Karl had asked the committee for information about the history of the dam. Nita reviewed a map of North Stonington dated 1868, which showed the dam and a structure labeled "Woolen Mill" existed at the site near the 1750 Farm House at that time. Cindy also remarked that she had spoken to her Uncle Amos Hewitt who once lived on the property, but that his knowledge of the dam's origin was not specific.

The group discussed other possible sources of information about the dam's history. Coop added that such information has long been sought by many people but with very little if any success. Nita suggested a detailed search of property records in the Town Hall might yield results, although it would necessitate time to complete this.

7) Community Garden proposal

Mary Ann Ricker representing the Hewitt Farm Community Garden Association arrived at 3:55 p.m. to meet with the committee and seek it's approval to apply for a Chelsea Groton grant which would provide funds to erect a garden shed with a composting toilet at the Community Garden site.

Nita stated that she had talked to First Selectman Mullane and that he had advised her that in the event the committee favors this proposal, it should be taken to the members of the Board of Selectmen for their approval.

Mary Ann distributed a copy of the *Request Proposal: Hewitt Farm Community Garden Association*. The proposal included an overview, drawings of alternative locations for the shed, a plan showing the locations of assigned garden plots, and vendor information describing the shed, composting toilet and solar panels.

The group asked many questions regarding the siting and maintenance of the shed and toilet, and how its use, cleanliness and security would be controlled. Following discussion, Nita motioned and Ed seconded to "go forward to assist the Community Garden Association to prepare a *Grant Request* to the Chelsea-Groton Foundation for installation of a shed and compost toilet at the Community Garden." If passed, this motion would signal the committee's approval of the proposal and the need to present it to the Board of Selectmen. The vote carried unanimously.

Nita will attend the Board of Selectmen meeting on April 1, 2014 and present the Community Garden Association proposal as a committee recommendation.

8) Maple Syrup Event

Nita reminded everyone of the maple syrup event with the "Three Bs", which is scheduled at the farm on Saturday, March 29, 2014. Coop will post signs and provide handout-maps guiding visitors from Hewitt Farm to the sugarhouse on Route 184.

9) Public comments and questions

- None

10) Priorities for April 7, 2014 agenda

- To be determined by the co-chairs

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Richard B. Cooper