

**Town of North Stonington, CT**  
**HEWITT FARM COMMITTEE**

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**Monday, April 7, 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 3:05 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. First Selectman Nick Mullane joined the meeting briefly at the beginning.

Nita began the meeting by requesting that the agenda be amended to allow First Selectman Mullane to discuss a matter concerning the Community Garden. The group agreed.

1) Options for Irrigating the Community Garden

First Selectman Nick Mullane distributed a list describing four possible options for obtaining irrigation water for the Community Garden this summer, specifically **(a)** install a temporary on-the-surface water line from Route 2 to the garden area, **(b)** dig up and repair/replace the existing water line from Route 2 to Greene Gables, **(c)** use a portable pump and surface line to move water from the river to the garden area, and **(d)** continue relying on the Fire Department to supply water to a large tank located in the garden area and hand-carry the water to individual plots. Nick asked the committee which option it prefers and which, if any, it would approve.

After discussion, the group agreed with Mr. Mullane that this decision would best be made with input from Highway Foreman Steve Holiday. Committee members also noted that any expense for work or materials involved in obtaining water for the garden would be charged to the Community Garden Association account, not to the Hewitt Farm 2014 Budget Line.

2) Status of Dam Reconstruction Plans

The group asked Mr. Mullane about progress on the Dam Reconstruction Project. He responded that he expects to soon publicize a *Request for Bids* with a return due date of the end of May, as well as a "good for" period of 90 days. Mr. Mullane is optimistic about receiving approval of a \$450,000 CT bond from the state to fund some of the reconstruction. The bond committee decision would be made by the end of June and the money would be available in July.

Nita read from Mr. Acimovic's recommended bid schedule, noting that Mr. Mullane's new schedule had slipped somewhat from what the committee understood earlier. The group briefly discussed the impact this new schedule might have on the Harvest Festival, but concluded that planning should precede on a limited basis until the end of May.

Cindy stated that she has a photo obtained from her Uncle Amos that shows the dam "many years ago." She will give the photo to IT/GIS Coordinator Marc Tate for possible enhancement.

### 3) Approve 03/24/2014 Meeting Minutes

Ellie motioned and Cindy seconded to approve the 3/24/2014 Meeting Minutes. The motion carried.

### 4) Community Garden Grant Proposal

Nita reported that the application for grant money for the Community Garden Association had been sent to the Chelsea-Groton Foundation. Regretfully, the town does not have an *IRS Determination Letter*, which is required by these grant administrators. This may impact grant approval.

The committee thanked Nita for researching, preparing and submitting this document.

### 5) Maple Syrup Event

Ellie began the discussion by praising the "Three B's," sponsors of the Maple syrup sugaring-off event. She said she was very impressed with how well organized they were, with their presentation of information and with their interaction with attendees, particularly children. Other members of the committee who attended the event agreed whole-heartedly with Ellie and thought there would have been many more participants (there were 19) if the weather had been less threatening.

Jack noted that if the event were held again next year there should be a longer period of advertisement. It was noted, however, that this might be difficult because of the relatively small window of opportunity involved in sugaring-off.

Ellie offered to write a letter of thanks and appreciation to the "Three B's".

### 6) Route 2 Entrance Sign

The group agreed that following the next meeting it would reassemble at the proposed site of the Route 2 Entrance sign to make a decision on the sign's exact location and orientation.

7) Trail Sign Progress

Coop stated that he had not yet seen the cedar posts Jack had provided for trail signs, but would do so before the next meeting. Also, he will try to have several trail signs in place for the group to examine when it visits the Route 2 Entrance next meeting.

8) Correspondence to Co-chair

Nita distributed a copy of an email she had sent to Brian Rathbun in reply to his email of March 27, 2014. Brian's email addressed the problem of diminished fish stocks in Lower Hewitt Pond. The group agreed that Nita's response was appropriate, since it indicated the dam reconstruction project might help solve the problem.

9) Public Comments and Questions

- None

10) Priorities for April 21, 2014 Agenda

- To be determined by the co-chairs

The meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Richard B. Cooper