

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

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**Monday, June 30, 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, Ed Harasimowitz, and Nita Kincaid present.

1) Approve 06/16/2014 Meeting Minutes

Ellie motioned and Cindy seconded to approve the 06/16/2014 Meeting Minutes. The motion carried.

2) Update on the Dam Reconstruction Project

Nita reported that she had attended the opening of contractor bids earlier in the morning and it appeared that of the 11 potential bidders that had attended the bidders site visit, four submitted bids. The next step in the process will be for engineer Karl Acimovic to review these bids for compliance with the *Request for Bids* and assist the Board of Selectmen in making a selection.

Nita read from an *Addendum to the Request for Bids* that Karl had prepared and had distributed to potential bidders. She noted that it reflected some of the committee's suggestions and requests.

Nita also reported that she had contacted Ron Lewis to inform him that the Route 2 Parking Area may have to be expanded to the north in order to provide an adequate staging area for the contractors to use.

3) Application for Garden Club Funding

Nita distributed a copy of the *Project Proposal Form* she and Coop had prepared for submission to the North Stonington Garden Club. It requests funding for continuing the replacement of temporary trail signs with permanent ones. The application has been submitted to the garden club.

3) Cancellation of the Fall Harvest Festival

Nita distributed a copy of a letter she had sent to potential participants in the Fall Harvest Festival, and informed the committee that she had also contacted some of the

individuals and groups by telephone. Cancellation of the event, which was agreed-to by the committee, is the result of anticipated disruption on the farm brought about by the planned dam construction.

#### 4) Trail Sign Progress

Coop reported that he had provided the *Sign Post Location Map* to Highway Department Foreman Steve Holiday and was awaiting word from him on when the holes would be dug and the posts set. Coop will then install the signs.

#### 5) Future and On-going Projects

Jack informed the group that he has a list of potential future projects that could be preformed by volunteers. He will give this list to Nita who will add it to the earlier-compiled list and forward it to Coop. Coop informed the group that he has been in contact with Scoutmaster John Bradshaw, and that he offered to meet with John to visit some of these potential project sites.

#### 6) Grange's Bluebird Houses

Cindy asked if the Bluebird houses installed by the North Stonington Grange were being occupied by Bluebirds or by other types of birds. The committee noted that Grange members appear to be monitoring the birdhouses and that they appear to be satisfied with the houses' success.

#### 7) Hewitt Farm Feedback Form

Cindy distributed a second draft of the *Hewitt Farm Feedback Form* for review and adoption by the committee. Ellie suggested a shorter introduction sentence and after a brief discussion the group came up with a simple sentence. Cindy will finalize the form. It will then be given to future project and event participants.

#### 8) Member Updates and Comments

Ed told the group about a conversation he overheard while visiting out of town. He said the individual was telling his friends about his experiences at Hewitt Farm and had many good things to say about the farm in general and how it was being managed.

Cindy reported on a contact with Mr. Ken Main who has considerable history about the Samuel T. Miner house, which was near the Hewitt Farm property until it burned down. Mr. Main's information did not seem directly tied to the Hewitt Farm, but was of general interest. Cindy also showed photographs of Hewitt Farm's past and of her family enjoying the farm. Most of the photos were taken in the area of the 1750 Farm House and the nearby 1717 Miner house, her grandfather's home. The photos illustrate well the changes that have taken place on Hewitt Farm over the past 50-60 years.

Jack reported that most of the Poison Ivy that he had cut last year had not returned. Also, the two Dogwood trees that he transplanted from the Canoe & Kayak Launch Area to the Welcome Sign entranceway were doing well. The Corn Crib has been cleaned out and all the piles of debris from around the Greene Gable Meadow, including the old tractor tires, were removed by the Highway Department.

In addition, Jack offered some large, very heavy flat stones that would be appropriate for establishing a permanent campfire area. Upon hearing the stones described, committee members discussed a few alternative uses as well. It was decided the stones could be useful in a number of ways and, if an opportunity arose to transport them to the site, we should do so.

9) Public Comments and Questions

- None

10) Priorities for July 14, 2014 Agenda

- To be determined by the co-chairs

Respectfully submitted, Richard B. Cooper