

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

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**Monday, October 6, 2014 at 3:00 p.m**  
**New Town Hall Conference Room**

The meeting of the Hewitt Farm Committee was called to order by Co-chair 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.

1) Approve 09/22/2014 Meeting Minutes

Cindy motioned and Ellie seconded to approve the 09/22/2014 Meeting Minutes. The motion carried.

2) ICONS Event - "Community Conversation"

Nita explained the purpose and planned conduct of a "community conversation" titled *North Stonington: Our Community Moving Forward Together* to be held on Saturday October 18th in the Elementary School. Nita suggested that at least one member of the Hewitt Farm Committee be present to answer questions about the farm and engage in discussions with members of other Town groups, boards and commissions.

Nita stated that she was recently questioned by a resident asking how and why the Town acquired Hewitt Farm, and why reconstruction of the dam is necessary. Nita stated that she believes too many citizens still do not know enough about Hewitt Farm and that events like the "community conversation" may provide an opportunity to tell residents more.

Nita also noted that a vacancy for Alternate Member of the committee still exists and this gathering may provide an opportunity to do some recruiting.

3) Dam Reconstruction Project

The group discussed concerns over whether the two stumps embedded on the dam should be removed. Nita described the current plan, which is to cut the stumps to minimum size and seal them to prevent re-growth. The group questioned whether the State's dam inspection officials have approved of this approach. Nita will bring the issue to First Selectman Mullane's attention. Other questions were about the date for

completion of the fabricated bridge and whether the pond would be lowered periodically in the future to control invasives and allow cleanup.

The group also acknowledged that with the dam, as throughout Hewitt Farm, there may be solutions to problems or improvements that cannot be made at present. However, when the opportunity arises, things should be put into place to accommodate these measures in the future. One example is the installation of a conduit in the dam area now such that, even though electric power, cable and telephone utilities cannot be installed underground now, it could more easily be done in the future.

#### 4) Horse Trailer Turning and Parking

Cindy noted that horse trailers are turning around and parking on The Green, and asked if that practice is acceptable to the committee. The group agreed that it had discussed this issue some time ago and resolved that there is no other area on the property large enough to conduct this maneuver. The group agreed that for the time being the practice would be permitted and we would determine if the activity was harmful to the Green. Past experience had indicated that such activity did no harm.

#### 5) The Cabin

Nita informed the group that she, First Selectman Mullane and Building Official DeCaesar had inspected The Cabin with the intent of determining how it could be used in the future. The three concluded that for the present the structure should be stabilized in its existing condition and not occupied until a use determination can be made. Committee members agreed to meet at The Cabin at some time in the future to visualize its possible uses.

#### 6) Community Garden

Ellie and Nita attended the Community Garden Association's Harvest Festival, reporting that they found the event very rewarding and that they had a good time. HFCGA's receipt of a grant of \$1000.00 from the Rotary Club to be used toward the shed/compost toilet project was recognized at the Festival. This will make the project doable sooner than expected.

Jack reported that the Community Garden Association has agreed to remove the roll of wire fencing located near the Corncrib. Coop had previously agreed to remove it.

7) Green Gables

Nita stated that she was in the process of drafting a response to Historical Society President Frank Eppinger's recent email concerning Greene Gables. The group discussed what should be included in the response and Nita will incorporate these comments in the final draft.

8) Public Comments and Questions

- None

9) Priorities for October 20, 2014 Agenda

- Update on dam reconstruction
- Update on Greene Gables
- Update on The Cabin

Respectfully submitted, Richard B. Cooper