

Town of North Stonington, CT
HEWITT FARM COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Monday, May 19, 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 and Nita Kincaid present.

1) Approve 04/07/2014 Meeting Minutes

Ellie motioned and Cindy seconded to approve the 04/21/2014 Meeting Minutes.

2) Update on Dam Reconstruction Plans

Nita reported that bonding for reconstruction of the dam was approved at a Special Town Meeting on May 12, 2014, but the actual money may not be available for a while. In addition, the DEP will not allow the water level of the pond to be lowered until after July 30th. The selectmen are still hoping for a grant of \$450,000 from the State of Connecticut, but that also remains uncertain. Nita noted that it's unlikely that work on the dam will be started in accordance with the original timeline.

3) Status of Route 2 Entrance Sign

Coop reported that Administrative Assistant Robin Roohr has sent the *Sign Application* for erection of the Route 2 Entrance Sign to the DOT for approval. Coop will continue to monitor the process and report back if and when the location is approved.

4) Event Form and Related Responsibilities

Nita told the history of past *Event Application* forms and described some of the deficiencies that remain on the present one. The group discussed what information the form provides and whether or not it should be changed or expanded. All agreed the form is adequate, but a checklist could be added on the reverse side to help the reviewer(s) evaluate and use the information it provides.

Cindy suggested using a questionnaire to elicit input from event organizers about things that worked well when they used the farm and improvements they would like to see. Cindy will make a "first-cut" at designing such a questionnaire and present it to the group.

5) Maple Syrup Video

Everyone on the committee acknowledged that they had viewed the "Sugaring Season", the maple syrup video", produced by Carlos Diaz, multimedia journalist for the New London Day. The group felt that it was an excellent production that really demonstrated the process.

6) Trail Sign Progress

Coop stated that all tree-mounted trail signs have been installed except for five that will be hung along the Bicentennial Trail. Post-mounted signs cannot be mounted until the posts are set, and that cannot happen until the burn piles are leveled and trail intersections re-established at those locations,

7) Letter from Brad Borden re: Canoe and Kayak Launch Area

Nita distributed a letter she had received from Brad Borden detailing recommendations for an additional canoe and kayak launch area that would be designed for use by a single person. The group discussed Brad's recommendations, and agreed Coop and Jack should meet with Brad at the site to further discuss the idea. Coop will make arrangements for the meeting.

8) Permanent Bench at the Launch Area

Jack asked if post-holes could be dug in the area of the Canoe and Kayak Launch Area for installation of a permanent bench. Once the exact location of the bench is determined, Coop will add this request to the "post-hole map" that the Highway Department will use to dig the holes.

9) Conservation Commission Grant Application

Bill Ricker of the North Stonington Conservation Commission had received an invitation from Aquarian Water Company to submit a request for grant money that may be used at the recipient's discretion. The Conservation Commission wrote and submitted the grant application, and named Hewitt Farm as the appropriate "recipient."

The Hewitt Farm Committee thanks the Conservation Commission for this gesture and considers it to be high praise for its operation of the farm.

10) Input to ICONS and "North Stonington Today" Publications

Coop will write the next article for publication in the Rec Commission's quarterly publication, "North Stonington Today." Nita is in the process of writing the committee's input to the ICONS publication.

11) Letter to NSHS re: the Greene Gables Resolution

Nita distributed a copy of the letter sent to the North Stonington Historical Society on May 15th in reference to the Greene Gables resolution.

12) Mowing of Farm House Meadow

The group agreed that the entire Farm House Meadow located directly behind and to the east of the 1750 Farm House would be mowed in late fall of this year, not this spring.

13) Public Comments and Questions

- None

14) Priorities for June 2, 2014 Agenda

- To be determined by the co-chairs

Respectfully submitted, Richard B. Cooper