

Town of North Stonington, CT
HEWITT FARM COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Monday, July 14, 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 and Nita Kincaid present.

1) Approve 06/302014 Meeting Minutes

Cindy motioned and Ellie seconded to approve the 06/30/2014 Meeting Minutes as corrected. The motion carried.

2) Dam Reconstruction Project and Related Communications

Nita stated that she had received a copy of a short report done by Karl Acimovic on the potential for producing hydropower at the Hewitt Farm dam. The group agreed that they were unaware that such a study had been requested by the selectmen. Nita indicated she would forward a copy of the report to all committee members.

Nita reported that she had inquired of First Selectman Mullane about progress on selecting a contractor for the dam reconstruction project and was told that the selection process was proceeding.

The committee agreed that it would not notify the tenants, neighbors or frequent users of the farm about the reconstruction project plans until such time as a contract was signed and/or a start date announced.

3) Greene Gables Update

Nita distributed a copy of an article published in *The Day* newspaper on July 6, 2014 entitled "Group has High Hopes for Hewitt Farm Site in North Stonington." Nita explained the background of how the article had come to be written. She noted that she had emphasized all aspects of Hewitt Farm to the Staff Writer, but the newspaper chose to place the emphasis of the article on Greene Gables.

3) Jack's Project List

Jack distributed copies of a list of potential projects that he foresaw should be performed on Hewitt Farm in the future. Nita presented two additional lists of work projects that were compiled some time ago and recently updated for distribution to the Grange. Coop will combine these projects on a single list, add a few more, and re-distribute the list for further discussion, and possible categorizing and prioritizing at the next meeting.

4) Community Garden

Nita remarked that there had been no mention of canceling the planned Fall Festival in the Community Garden Association's recent meeting Minutes, and that she had communicated with Mary Ann Ricker and the association members about the cancellation and the upcoming work to be done on the dam.

Nita said that the Community Garden Association did not receive the full amount of grant money it had requested from the Chelsea Groton Foundation, but that there were still avenues it could take to achieve the stated goal of the grant request. For example, John Bradshaw had contacted Mary Ann with the idea that construction of the desired shed could possibly become an Eagle Scout project.

5) Future and On-going Projects

Jack told the group that the Highway Department had helped him clear the border around the Greene Gables Meadow by removing the piles of debris that had accumulated. Jack also announced that the Corn Crib behind Greene Gables had been cleaned out and secured.

6) Hewitt Farm Feedback Form

The group reviewed the draft *Hewitt Farm Feedback Form* prepared by Cindy and agreed to several changes. Cindy will make the document ready for use.

7) Other Member Updates

Coop notified the committee that he had a productive conversation with the First Selectman and that late-hour visitors to Hewitt Farm have been discouraged.

8) Public Comments and Questions

- None

9) Priorities for July 28, 2014 Agenda

- Review design of Trail Maps
- Discuss history of Hewitt Farm for update to handouts
- Review the revised Project List
- Update on Dam Reconstruction Project
- Update on Greene Gables resolution

Respectfully submitted, Richard B. Cooper