

Town of North Stonington, CT
HEWITT FARM COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Monday, April 21, 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 3:15 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

Cindy motioned and Ellie seconded to approve the 04/07/2014 Meeting Minutes as corrected. The motion carried.

1) Report about 1750 Farm House

Nita told the group about selecting William Coffey, local pest control specialist, to examine the 1750 Farm House for any possible problems. Nita and her husband Gary Kincaid, who has a background in restoration work, met with Mr. Coffey at the house on April 17th. Following his examination, Mr. Coffey reported that the farm house beams were in remarkably good condition considering their age and that the Powder Post Beetles who were believed to be a problem were, in fact, "long gone." Both Mr. Coffey and Gary Kincaid noted that the house was in very good condition for its age.

Nita described several other problems that were previously known to the committee, namely the sloping of the dining area floor and the hole in one of the downstairs bedroom floors. Gary Kincaid indicated that the sloping floor could be corrected relatively easily by jacking up the problem beams beneath the dining room area. This would be a safe, stable and relatively inexpensive repair, but a more complete repair would be preferable. The tenant has patched the bedroom floorboard, so that the hole no longer presents a hazard.

A thorough examination of the basement by the group also found that the existence of the small entry porch (on the side of the house facing the Green) is causing water damage to the main structure and should be addressed soon. Mr. Coffey also identified some wood rot caused by water funneling through a poor repair in a rear basement window. Possible solutions to these problems will be pursued with the selectmen.

2) Status of Dam Reconstruction Plans

Nita reported that the Board of Selectman has not yet issued the Request for Quotes (RFQ) for reconstruction of the dam.

3) Maple Syrup Thank You

The group unanimously thanked Ellie for writing and sending an excellent letter to the "Three B's," thanking them for conducting the Maple Syrup sugaring-off event.

4) Status of Greene Gables Resolution

Nita distributed copies of a letter she had prepared that would be sent to the North Stonington Historical Society with regard to the resolution of Greene Gables. There was discussion over who should receive the letter - the Historical Society's "Greene Gables Committee" or the entire Historical Society Board of Directors. Also, the group addressed who on the Hewitt Farm Committee should sign the letter.

It was decided that the letter should be sent to the Historical Society's Greene Gables Committee with whom past communication has been conducted, and that the Hewitt Farm Committee co-chairs should sign the letter.

6) Harvest Festival

The group remains committed to waiting until the end of May to decide whether to proceed with planning for the Harvest Festival.

7) Trail Sign Progress

Coop stated that he examined the cedar posts that Jack had cut and that they will be "perfect" for trail signposts. He will finalize where the posts should be installed and contact Highway Foreman Steve Holiday to see if the Highway Department will dig the holes.

Coop has to-date not yet installed any of the new Trail Signs.

8) Community Garden Water Plans

Nita reported that First Selectman Mullane and Highway Foreman Steve Holiday informed her that they will pursue installing a near-surface water line from the Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority's line at Route 2 to the area of the Community Garden.

9) Public Comments and Questions

- None

10) Priorities for May 5, 2014 Agenda

- To be determined by the co-chairs

At 4:10 p.m., the group adjourned to the intersection of Route 2 and Hewitt Road (the Route 2 entrance to Hewitt Farm) to view a mock-up of the new Hewitt Farm Entrance Sign.

Respectfully submitted, Richard B. Cooper