

Town of North Stonington, CT
HEWITT FARM COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Monday, June 2, 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 3:08 p.m. in the New Town Hall Conference Room with members, Jack Brown, Dick (Coop) Cooper, Cindy Faucher, Ed Harasimowitz and Nita Kincaid present. Committee member Ellie Banker arrived shortly thereafter.

1) Approve 04/07/2014 Meeting Minutes

Cindy motioned and Jack seconded to approve the 05/19/2014 Meeting Minutes. The motion carried.

2) Update on Dam Reconstruction Plans

Nita reminded the group of the 4:00 p.m. meeting at the site with Karl Acimovic, the engineer in charge of the Hewitt Dam reconstruction project. She stated that Karl has asked to know where the committee prefers to locate several equipment staging and material stockpiling areas, and in turn the group hopes to learn specifics of the project and when certain milestones will be achieved.

Nita stated that availability of the *Request for Bids* package has been advertised and a potential contractor has already picked up one copy from the Selectmen's Office.

The group discussed possible locations for the staging and stockpiling areas. Nita suggested that the area across Hewitt Road from the Canoe & Kayak Launch Area, just south of the Welcome Sign, could possibly benefit from some of the excavated fill material, so it could be converted to a parking area. This would eliminate the need for parking on the Green during special events. A primary concern is whether there will be enough material from the reconstruction to do this and whether it will be the proper type of material. Ellie and Cindy described their recollection of what types of materials surround the pond and are in the dam.

Jack suggested it might be possible to use the stump area in front of Greene Gables as an equipment staging area. All agreed this would be desirable except for possible difficulty accessing the area through the narrow driveway.

The group also discussed whether it is prudent to erect the Route 2 Entrance Sign before the dam work is completed. All agreed the sign should be erected afterward. Ed voiced his surprise that the DOT had approved the sign location so quickly.

3) Community Garden PortaJohn

The group briefly discussed the receipt by the Community Garden Association of a PortaJohn for use by gardeners. The committee's concern centered around who will be allowed to use the facility, the appropriateness of its location, and who will be responsible for cleaning and otherwise maintaining it.

Ellie and Nita will speak to members of the Community Garden Association to obtain these answers.

4) Community Garden Grant Application

Nita stated that the Community Garden Association has received a grant of \$500 from the Chelsea Groton Foundation, which would be used toward the purchase of a shed and compost toilet for the Community Garden area. The committee assumes this is intended as a starting point and that the association will work to raise the full amount that is needed.

5) Trail Sign Progress & Possible Request for Additional Funds

Nita stated that if the committee intends to seek additional funds to complete replacement of Hewitt Farm's temporary trail signs, it is time to begin preparing a description of what signs will be needed. Coop will prepare the description.

6) Modification to Canoe & Kayak Launch Area

Jack and Coop met with Brad Borden at the Canoe and Kayak Launch Area to discuss Brad's ideas for improving the launch and making it more suitable for kayak users. The group agreed the opening should be widened and several large rocks moved to make the waterway more accessible. Work could be done this summer, since the pond will be lowered to accommodate dam reconstruction work.

7) Greene Gables Update

Nita distributed a copy of a letter from the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation to the North Stonington Historical Society describing a project to survey and document sites throughout Connecticut that are associated with 20th century visual artists and writers. The committee agreed that the Historical Society's response to this opportunity could be indicative of how serious the Society is with regard to preserving Greene Gables.

8) Additional Items for Discussion

Nita stated that Ken Main had left a brief message in the committee's Town Hall mailbox; he offered to share his knowledge of Hewitt Farm history. Cindy will contact Ken to see what information he can provide.

9) Public Comments and Questions

- None

10) Priorities for June 16, 2014 Agenda

- To be determined by the co-chairs

Respectfully submitted, Richard B. Cooper