

Town of North Stonington, CT
HEWITT FARM COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Monday, June 16, 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 3:07 p.m. in the New Town Hall Conference Room with members Ellie Banker, Dick (Coop) Cooper, Cindy Faucher, and Nita Kincaid present.

1) Approve 06/02/2014 Meeting Minutes

Ellie motioned and Cindy seconded to approve the 06/02/2014 Meeting Minutes. The motion carried.

2) Update on Dam Reconstruction Plans

Nita asked committee members what they thought the committee's role should be in regard to the Hewitt Dam reconstruction project. She told the group that there would be a bidder's meeting at the site at 9:30 a.m. on June 17th and that members are welcome to attend. Nita suggested that photographs should be taken of the site throughout the construction period, particularly "before and after" shots of the staging and materials storage areas. Coop agreed he would do this.

The group also discussed the instructions to bidders contained in the selectmen's Request For Proposals. Nita noted that based on some recent engineering decisions, it appears that the committee's suggestions are being considered. The group agreed it would remain closely involved in the project and would continue to monitor progress.

The committee reviewed and commented on the notes, which it had compiled from the earlier site walk with engineer Karl Acimovic. Some discussion was given to what signs should be posted for the public once the dam work begins.

The committee also agreed it must communicate dam reconstruction information to the resident tenants, those renting the hayfields, Hewitt Road neighbors, and those groups and individuals who regularly visit Hewitt Farm. The group decided to wait until a contractor is selected before taking any action on this item.

3) Community Garden PortaJohn

The group discussed the appropriateness of the PortaJohn's location, as well as related management and maintenance issues. It was also reported that a water line has been installed by the town to allow plant watering by the gardeners.

4) Greene Gables Report

In response to the committee's letter sent to the North Stonington Historical Society regarding Greene gables, an email has been received stating that Mr. Eppinger is preparing the Society's response and that it will be sent in middle to late July.

5) Trail Sign Progress

Coop reported that the only replacement trail signs remaining to be installed are those that will be mounted on posts. This will be done as soon as the hayfields are harvested and a posthole digger can be moved onto the property.

Coop also distributed several documents describing a possible purchase of 13 (later changed to 14) more permanent signs. These would be procured if the Hewitt Farm receives a 2014 project donation from the North Stonington Garden Club. Coop will fill out the *NSGC Application Form* and forward it to Nita to submit to the Garden Club.

6) Trails Day

Cindy described the very successful hike of the Loop Trail on Connecticut Trails Day. She said there were 16 participants including three children who seemed to be having a wonderful time. She said the weather was perfect and there were no bugs. Cindy wondered if there were any statistics on participation at the other hikes throughout the state. Coop will try to find out.

8) Additional Items for Discussion

Nita reported that she had received a request from Scout Master John Bradshaw asking if there were any projects on Hewitt Farm that a Boy Scout could perform in fulfillment of his Eagle Scout rank. Nita said she had sent a list of such items to John for consideration.

The group also reviewed Cindy's Hewitt Farm "user's feedback form" and suggested a few changes to it before its adoption.

Nita stated that she had received (via Selectman Bob Testa) a package of information from Ken Main about the history of Hewitt Farm. Although much of the information relates to a 1717 saltbox house, which is not on the Hewitt Farm property and which has unfortunately burned down, there may be some usable information in the package regarding Hewitt Farm. Cindy took the package to examine and report back at a later time.

9) Public Comments and Questions

- None

10) Priorities for June 30, 2014 Agenda

- To be determined by the co-chairs

Respectfully submitted, Richard B. Cooper