

Town of North Stonington, CT
HEWITT FARM COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Monday, September 22, 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 09/08/2014 Meeting Minutes

Ellie motioned and Cindy seconded to approve the 09/08/2014 Meeting Minutes. The motion carried.

2) Dam Reconstruction Project

Nita described her recent visit to the dam and her discussion with Engineer Karl Acimovic regarding progress of the reconstruction work during the past two weeks. She described the appearance and condition of the pond, and design of the dam's stonework that is visible.

The group agreed that this would be a good opportunity to do historical research on the dam and compile a record of photographs to document the dam's original design and evolution. Committee Member Ed Harasimowitz has agreed to take photographs of the dam as work proceeds. Others on the committee were also encouraged to take photographs, if they wish.

3) Community Garden

Nita distributed a written invitation from the North Stonington Community Garden Association to attend the organization's Fall Festival on September 27th. Nita encouraged members of the committee to attend.

Nita also informed the group that Eagle Scout Candidate Roy Amaral appears to be going to choose, as his Eagle project, to build a shed for use in the Community Garden area. He still needs to determine if any additional permission is required and what funds he will need to raise to do the project.

4) The Cabin

Nita reported that the cabin has been cleaned-up by the tenant, Town employees and a few volunteers. The group agreed to request of First Selectman Nick Mullane that the electricity is turned off, propane tanks removed and the water drained. It was felt the cabin should be secured until a decision is reached about future use and the amount of work required.

The group also agreed the Building Official should be consulted to determine what must be done to the structure to make it usable for various purposes.

5) Revised Project List

Nita distributed copies of the various project/work lists (2011 to summer 2014) that the group had developed. The lists identified items needing to be accomplished at some point in time. The earliest list contained many completed items and we will keep this as a record of all that has been done.

The group reviewed all the remaining items on each of the lists (item by item) and sorted the tasks into the following three categories: (1) *HFC Projects and/or Ongoing Programs*, (2) *Smaller Tasks/Projects for Volunteers*, (3) *Larger Tasks/Projects for Volunteers*.

Nita will correct these lists to reflect the committee's discussion and email them for committee members' review.

6) Hayfields

Coop told the group that he had received an inquiry from a visitor to Hewitt Farm as to why there was no posting when the herbicide was applied to the hayfields. Coop told the individual that since Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) was supervising the application and did not specify such notification, the committee believed posting was unnecessary. The group agreed, however, that since Hewitt Farm is used as a park as well as for agricultural purposes, from now on any such application of chemicals would be posted.

7) ICONS Event

Nita explained that the "Community Conversation" event, sponsored by ICONS, is being held on October 18, 2014. She encouraged members of the committee to attend and noted that advanced registration is requested.

8) Other

Jack requested that the committee forward another request to the Historical Society for any update on the status of their Greene Gables report. We had previously determined that a monthly reminder might be helpful.

9) Public Comments and Questions

- None

10) Priorities for October 6, 2014 Agenda

- Update on dam reconstruction
- Update on Greene Gables
- Update on The Cabin

Respectfully submitted, Richard B. Cooper