

Town of North Stonington, CT
HEWITT FARM COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Monday, April 6, 2015 at 3:00 p.m.
New Town Hall Conference Room

The meeting of the Hewitt Farm Committee was called to order by Co-chair Nita Kincaid at 3:05 p.m. in the New Town Hall Conference Room with members Brian Banker, Ellie Banker, Dick (Coop) Cooper and Nita Kincaid present. Eagle Scout Candidate Roy Amaral was also present.

1) Approve 03/23/2015 Meeting Minutes

Ellie motioned and Nita seconded to approve the 3/23/2015 Meeting Minutes as corrected. The motion carried.

2) Community Garden Shed Project

Eagle Scout Candidate Roy Amaral, who is building the shed for installation at the Community Garden as his Eagle Scout Project, reported on his progress throughout the winter months. He stated that the shed is being constructed inside the Highway Department garage and will be ready for installation at the Community Garden site by mid-April.

Roy described how he obtained the shed's materials and elicited help from volunteer workers. He noted that the only work that remains is the installation of some hardware and painting. The composting toilet will be delivered and then installed by the Community Garden Association once the shed is in place and secured.

Ellie suggested that the committee meet with members of the Community Garden Association to discuss the use and maintenance of the shed once it is put in operation.

Nita asked Roy if photographs are being taken during the project and Roy assured the group that the Troop Historian was doing just that. Roy offered to provide the committee with whatever photos it wishes.

Nita informed the group that earlier in the day, on behalf of the Community Garden Association, she had placed an order for the composting toilet. The association is funding the purchase from donations they have received; the donated money is in a town account that is overseen by the Hewitt Farm Committee.

The committee thanked Roy for attending the meeting, for his very informative report, and particularly for the excellent work he is doing on the project.

The committee also discussed its oversight of the project, as well as past Scout projects and potential future projects. Members agreed we are responsible for keeping up-to-date on such projects and for communicating with the Scout who is doing the project. Nita suggested that the committee make contact with new Scout Leader Doug Spracklin to discuss the best way to work together on future projects.

3) Dam Reconstruction Project

Nita reported that the contractor working on the dam reconstruction project is getting ready to pour concrete into the rip-rap area upstream and downstream of the dam, and downstream of the spill-way under the bridge. The Project Engineer has suggested a few modifications to complete the areas near the new spillway.

The group discussed the installation of signage after the bridge is open to traffic - specifically replacing the "Dead End" signs with "No Thru Traffic" signs. Not all members were in favor of this proposal, but all did agree that something would need to be done to minimize the amount of traffic through Hewitt Farm.

4) Route 2 Entranceway Improvement

Nita read aloud an email she had received from Madeline Jeffery requesting that there be a "hold on any Route 2 tree cutting from Hewitt Road to Main Street until a plan is submitted" to various town organizations and the public. The group briefly discussed the email and reaffirmed that the trees which it recommended for removal do, in fact, pose a potential safety problem, and that the request for their removal was made through proper channels.

5) Research on The Cabin

Nita distributed a "thank you" letter she sent to Brian Crandall in which she thanked him for his examination of The Cabin and comments regarding its condition. She invited him back for a "second look" in order to examine some of the areas that were previously inaccessible. At that time, someone would be present who can "open" the areas, so that he may better determine their condition. Ellie will telephone Brian to personally invite him to return.

The group also discussed the need to obtain a "second opinion" on any recommendations or conclusions regarding The Cabin. This will be particularly important if public funds are necessary to achieve the recommended course of action.

6) Book Signing

Nita, Ellie and Coop described the Historical Society's Open House event on March 28th in which author Tobias Goodman described his book *Out of the Attic: Images by Fred Stewart Greene*. All agreed Dr. Goodman's talk was well done and that the book is an outstanding presentation of Fred Stuart Greene's work.

7) Trail Signs

Coop distributed a map of Hewitt Farm showing the locations of all existing temporary and permanent, and proposed permanent Trail Signs. Attached to the map was a tentative order list for new 2015 replacement Trail Signs for the committee to review.

Coop briefly explained the map's Key, but because all committee members were not present the discussion was deferred until the next meeting.

8) Priorities for April 20, 2015 Agenda

- Topics to be determined by the co-chairs

Respectfully submitted, Richard B. Cooper