

**Town of North Stonington, CT
HEWITT FARM COMMITTEE**

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

**Monday, June 1, 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 3:00 p.m. in the New Town Hall Conference Room with members Brian Banker, Ellie Banker, Jack Brown, Dick (Coop) Cooper, Cindy Faucher, Ed Harasimowitz and Nita Kincaid present.

1) Approve 05/18/2015 Meeting Minutes

Ellie motioned and Jack seconded to approve the 05/18/2015 Meeting Minutes. The motion carried.

2) Findings and Recommendations from May 18th Site Inspection

Having conducted a site inspection of portions of Hewitt Farm on May 18th, the committee engaged in a discussion of what it found and what actions it intended to take. On some issues, the committee agreed to consult with First Selectman Nick Mullane or Highway Foreman Steve Holliday (hereafter "the Town") on how to proceed. Work to be performed by volunteers or committee members (hereafter "we" or "us") is described below:

Route 2 Parking Area

- Logs marking the Route 2 Parking Area boundary will be moved another 20' toward the cabin.
- Under normal conditions the western barway into the parking area will be used for the entering and exiting of vehicles. During an event, the western barway may be used for entering and the eastern barway for exiting the parking area.
- No new surface material will be added to the parking area
- We will ask the Town to dress the drainage ditch at the entrance to the western barway.
- We will ask the Town to distribute the small stone pile currently in the center of the parking area, so that it is at the entrance to the area.
- We will ask the Town if they would be willing to remove the wooden bridge platforms the site. We believe that the town plans to use the large granite blocks that are stored in this same location, when they are completing the dam and are

looking forward to seeing them included in the finish work. It was suggested by the committee that if one or two of the blocks remain, they would make ideal "fishing seats" near the dam.

Route 2 Entrance

- The location and configuration of Hewitt Road at the Route 2 entrance will remain unchanged.
- We will ask the Town to resurface the entranceway with the same gravel material as is used on the Ryder Road end of Hewitt Road (hereafter "Hewitt Road gravel").
- We will coordinate with the Town to install the new Route 2 Entrance Sign and landscape under and around it per the *Sign Permit* approved in April 2014.
- Mailboxes will not be relocated.
- We will ask the Town to remove the felled-tree debris near the entrance. We will clean up the entranceway area.

Western End of Hewitt Road

- We will ask the Town to resurface the road from Route 2 to the bridge apron with "Hewitt Road gravel."
- The Town will determine what surface material to use for the bridge apron.
- We will ask the Town to resurface the Greene Gables driveway with "Hewitt Road gravel."
- We will repair and maintain the stone wall on both sides of the entrance road from Route 2 to the bridge.
- We will repair and maintain the stairway leading from the parking area to the road.
- We will consult with the Community Garden Association to ask if they want permanent parking area direction signs.

The Cabin

- The future of the Cabin is being considered and more research into the alternatives is necessary.

Greene Gables

- We will inquire into the purpose of the pipe located across the driveway east of the structure.
- The Town continues to wait for input from the North Stonington Historical Society regarding possible alternatives for Greene Gables. In the interim the driveway around this structure is mowed periodically and no other work is being done.

Community Garden

- We are pleased with the general appearance and condition of the entire area.
- We will ask the Town to remove the debris piles on the western periphery of the meadow and the ashes from the burn pile in the center of the meadow.
- We are pleased with the appearance, location and security of the shed. We will suggest to the association that the ground around the perimeter of the shed be evened out to allow better mowing and that chicken wire be used to surround the base to discourage entry by animals.
- We conclude that the size, location and condition of the concrete pad might support the construction of a pavilion some day and that the pad could be used for outdoor events.
- We will investigate the possibility of extending nearby utilities to the pad area.
- We will check with the Town about mowing the meadow and trail around the meadow.
- We will install a pad lock on the Corn Crib and the structure will remain vacant.

The Dam

- We are awaiting information from the town about the steps and timing for completion of the dam area and the opening of the bridge to vehicular traffic.

Butterfly Garden

- We will contact the leader of Girl Scout Troop 63813 to determine the troop's intentions with regard to maintaining the Butterfly Garden.
- We will contact the 1750 Farm House tenant to ask if he will assume responsibility for mowing the lawn surrounding the Butterfly Garden.
- We will trim and maintain the Forsythia and other nearby bushes.

- The existing picnic tables will remain in their present location. We will coordinate with the Town for the placement of picnic tables currently at the Town Garage.

1750 Farm House

- We will stabilize and/or securely store remains of the front porch railing.
- We will remove the fence and gate behind (south of) the structure.
- We will work with the Town to determine whether the removal of the back porch is desirable and can be done this year.
- We will remove discarded materials in the rear corner of the back yard.
- We will ask the Town to resurface the driveway from the footbridges to the 1750 Farm House with "Hewitt Road gravel."
- Present signage (two small "Private Residence" signs) is sufficient.

The Green

- We will confirm mowing and related maintenance responsibilities with involved parties.
- We will continue to cleanup and remove invasive vegetation from the Pine Tree Area.
- We will continue to construct a user-friendly Canoe & Kayak Launch Area.

3) CT Trails Weekend on June 6 or 7, 2015

Coop Stated that he had walked the Bicentennial Trail and that, thanks to the many people who use it and who trim and pickup as they go, it is in very good condition. Cindy, Nita and Coop will lead a *National Trails Day* hike over the Bicentennial Trail on Sunday, June 7th at 1:00 p.m.

4) Purchase of New Trail Signs

Coop asked the group for permission to order the newly selected permanent Trail Signs and the group agreed.

5) Plans and Communication for Harvest Festival

The group discussed other kinds of events that have been held at Hewitt Farm, in addition to the planned Harvest Festival. Nita distributed a list of individuals and groups who participated in the 2011 Harvest Festival and asked committee members to think about who else should be included in this year's event.

6) Member Comments

Nita announced that she had received a check from Gillian Perry Millsom in the amount of \$100 as a contribution to the Hewitt Farm Committee for use on the farm as it sees fit. Members individually expressed their gratitude for such a very thoughtful gift.

Nita announced that the Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut were offering \$200 toward the purchase of a Native Oak tree if it is planted in a prominent and appropriate location. Nita asked the group to think about such a location on Hewitt Farm.

Coop noted that the North Stonington Citizen's Land Alliance is looking for "heritage apple trees" for Yale's Heirloom Apple Project to study. He asked the committee if he could recommend to the Land Alliance the apple tree in the southeast corner of Hayfield #1. Members agreed he could.

7) Priorities for June 15, 2015 Agenda

- Status of site inspection findings
- Status of New Trail signs
- Our participation in CT Trails Weekend
- Plans and communication for the Harvest Festival
- Location for Federation Garden Clubs of CT Native Oak tree

Respectfully submitted, Richard B. Cooper