

Town of North Stonington, CT
HEWITT FARM COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Monday, June 15, 2015 at 3:00 p.m.
New Town Hal Conference Room

The meeting of the Hewitt Farm Committee was called to order by Co-chair Nita Kincaid at 3:04 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 06/01/2015 Meeting Minutes

The committee reviewed and extensively discussed a draft of the 06/01/2015 Meeting Minutes, which contain a detailed description of the committee's findings and conclusions of its 05/18/2015 site inspection of Hewitt Farm. Ellie motioned and Jack seconded to approve the 06/01/2015 Meeting Minutes as amended. The motion carried.

2) Participation in CT Trails Weekend

The Hewitt Farm Committee led a hike over the Bicentennial Trail on Sunday, June 7th as part of *Connecticut Trails Weekend*. Cindy, Nita and Coop who led the walk described the events of the day for the benefit of those members who did not attend.

3) Status of New Trail Signs

Coop reported that he had received a satisfactory proposal from vendor *Danforth Signs & Carving* and had placed the order for the new trail signs.

4) Plans and Communications for the Harvest Festival

Nita reported that she had contacted everyone who participated in the *2011 Harvest Festival* and that all had responded favorably. She urged committee members to be thinking of other people and organizations who might participate or who would at least attend. She has asked Garden Club members to do the same.

5) Possible Location for a Native Oak Tree

Nita stated that the *Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut* are offering \$200 toward the purchase and planting of a "native" oak tree by member garden clubs. The *North*

Stonington Garden Club has offered to apply for this award provided an appropriate location for the tree can be found. The club has asked the Hewitt Farm Committee to suggest locations.

Jack proposed a location near the Community Garden, Cindy - the open area beyond the Welcome Sign, and Coop and Nita - somewhere to the left of the Butterfly Garden when facing it from the dam. The group agreed to visit the farm individually and plant a stake where each thinks the tree should be planted.

6) Expanded Restaurant Parking

Nita stated that the committee had been asked to comment on the possibility of the restaurant expanding its parking area to accommodate more vehicles. The group briefly discussed the ramifications of such expansion and whether or not this is even possible. The committee concluded that it does not have sufficient information to make a decision and that Nita would contact First Selectman Mullane with questions.

7) Items for Group Discussion

Nita reported that Ron Lewis informed her that the hay fields have been cut and that the harvest is good. He is requesting that the natural area behind the restaurant be mowed to prevent the spread of weeds into the hay crop. Nita will forward the request to First Selectman Mullane.

Jack suggested that a "closed at dusk" sign be erected at the Route 2 Parking Area to eliminate or at least reduce the amount of litter. The group briefly discussed the idea, but there was no conclusion. Coop stated that he had see visitors picking up litter in the Hewitt Road Parking Area and was preparing to install a "thank you" sign. He will erect one at the Route 2 area in the hope that it has some effect there.

8) Priorities for June 29, 2015 Agenda

- Expansion of Restaurant Parking
- Status of New Trail Sign
- Plans and communication for the Harvest Festival

Respectfully submitted, Richard B. Cooper