

Town of North Stonington, CT
HEWITT FARM COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Monday, May 4, 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 3:04 p.m. in the New Town Hall Conference Room with members Brian Banker, Ellie Banker, Jack Brown, Dick (Coop) Cooper, Ed Harasimowitz, and Nita Kincaid present.

1) Approve 04/20/2015 Meeting Minutes

Ed motioned and Jack seconded to approve the 04/20/2015 Meeting Minutes. The motion carried.

2) Dam Reconstruction Project

Nita reported that she had been informed by First Selectman Mullane that there likely would not be enough money remaining at the end of the project to build a retaining wall on the river bank southwest of the dam. This work was not part of the originally proposed work, however it may be performed by the town at a later date. The contractor will leave a pile of rip-rap rocks for this purpose. Within the next few days, the contractor will remove all equipment, landscape and seed the area, install the wooden bridge railing, and pave the bridge surface with a single course of asphalt.

Jack asked if there was a plan for closing-off the flow of water through the dam in order to fill the pond. He is concerned that there will be problems with the fish population downstream if the flow is completely stopped. Nita will raise this question with First Selectman Mullane.

Ellie asked if North Stonington's largest fire truck will be able to safely cross the wooden bridge that remains on the dam. Nita stated that she will get an answer to this question. Ed suggested that since the bridge was quite short in length probably only one axle at a time will rest on the old bridge area when a large vehicle is crossing it.

Nita reported that a resident had inquired as to whether a ribbon-cutting ceremony is being planned for the official opening of the dam and bridge. The group discussed the possibility of such ceremony and concluded it would be best if it could be held as part of the Harvest Festival, when the whole area is completed.

3) Route 2 Entrance

Nita asked Jack to draw up a list of tasks required to improve the appearance of the Route 2 Entrance to Hewitt Farm. Tasks would include things such as the relocation of existing mailboxes, possible rerouting of Hewitt Road, possible placement of boulders and/or "pilings", and general area clean-up.

At this point in the discussion, Nita suggested and the group agreed that for its May 18th meeting the committee would meet at the Route 2 Parking Area to see firsthand what future work is needed.

4) Community Garden

Nita reported that the shed has been installed at the Community Garden and the Community Garden Association has received the composting toilet. Nita does not know if the toilet has been installed.

Nita also distributed a memorandum from the committee to Treasurer Robin Roohr and Bookkeeper Susan Henderson describing *Background of the Hewitt Farm Community Garden Shed Expenses*. The memo essentially describes how the funds for the shed and composting toilet were handled.

5) The Cabin

Nita reported that she had met with professional contractor Ken Gillis to conduct a "second-opinion" inspection and analysis of the condition of the cabin. She stated that Ken had identified very similar issues to those that Brian Crandall had found when he inspected the building.

If the committee wishes, Ken will provide a quote on the cost of taking down plaster board to further examine the structure's framing. Nita also has the names of individuals who could provide a quote for total demolition. She concluded that there are people who really care about the cabin and the committee wants to do a good job of understanding the options and being able to present them accurately to the town.

6) Trail Signs

Coop reported that he had sent the *Order List for 2015 Replacement Trail Signs* to Danforth Signs and Carving requesting a cost proposal. He has not yet received a reply.

7) Harvest Festival

Nita said she had been thinking of some new Ideas for the area behind the Community Garden during the Harvest Festival. The area contains a large concrete pad that is in good condition, and water and electric service are available for use.

8) Comments and Questions

Coop showed a photograph of the wire fence in the back yard of the 1750 Farm House and asked if he could remove it to the Transfer Station. The group agreed.

Coop also noted that the Butterfly Garden is in need of attention. The committee agreed to visit it during the next meeting.

9) Public Comment

New London Day reporter. Lindsay Boyle, was present for most of the meeting, but had no comments.

10) Priorities for May 25, 2015 Agenda

Meeting to convene in the Route 2 Parking Area.

- Topics to be determined by the co-chairs

Respectfully submitted, Richard B. Cooper