

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

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**Monday, August 10, 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 3:05 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 07/27/2015 Meeting Minutes

Ed motioned and Jack seconded to approve the 07/27/2015 Meeting Minutes. The motion carried.

2) Status of Restaurant Parking Request

Nita distributed a copy of a letter written by First Selectman Mullane to the operators of the Buon Appetito restaurant. This letter is the result of the committee's questions to the selectmen regarding the restaurant's request to expand its parking. The farmers who lease the hayfield report that there are presently cars parked in the hayfield behind the restaurant, outside the area designated for this purpose. The farmers also report that vehicles are being driven through the hayfield to arrive at these locations. Nita and First Selectman Mullane plan to meet with the restaurant's operators to discuss this issue.

In addition to their concerns over the parking behind the restaurant, the farmers also noted that Cemetery Road was excavated to reach an underground pipe during the recent water emergency. When the excavated area was back-filled, considerable gravel-like road material was deposited on a section of the hayfield next to the roadway. Nita will request that First Selectman Mullane contact Southeastern CT Water Authority about repairing the affected hayfield area.

The farmers also requested that the septic field area behind the restaurant be mowed to prevent weed seeds from blowing into the hayfield. Nita has forwarded this request to the Highway Department.

3) Member Updates on Projects and Additional Items for Discussion

Nita reported that the Board of Selectmen has placed an advertisement for bids on the old greenwood bridge platforms.

Coop asked that the logs that were removed from the Route 2 Parking Area be saved for use in the boundary on the Hewitt Road Parking Area. He and Brian will transport them.

Ed offered to cut the Tree-of-Heaven and other brush that remains on the slope north of the pine trees. He will also trim the weeds on the dam prior to the Harvest Festival.

Nita showed the group an engraved wooden sign that Gary Kincaid had made to guide visitors to the location of the Community Garden. Gary will install it at the intersection of Hewitt Road and the Greene Gables driveway. The small temporary sign mounted under the "rules" sign will then be removed.

Jack complimented the Community Garden Association on removing some debris that was located behind the garden shed.

Nita stated that Garden Club members were concerned about the adequacy of the soil in the area proposed for planting a native oak tree. The group will examine the soil during its next visit to the site. She also reported that she had just received the \$100 annual donation from the club.

At the request of the Grange, Nita provided their group with the Hewitt Farm list of volunteer projects. The Grange may choose to do one of these as their community service for this year.

#### 4) Status of Route 2 Entrance Sign

Nita also informed the group that Gary has volunteered to mount the Route 2 Entrance Sign after the Highway Department has set its posts. Highway Department Foreman Steve Holiday has assured the group that this project is a high priority for his department. Additional landscaping of the sign area will be done, once the sign is in place.

Nita suggested contacting the local newspapers to cover the installation of the sign, as this could be linked to initial publicity for the upcoming Harvest Festival.

#### 5) Status of the Dam

Nita will speak to First Selectman Mullane about obtaining a brief written statement that describes the current status of the dam and information about remaining work to be accomplished. Many people have been asking committee members about plans for its completion.

#### 6) Plans for the Harvest Festival

Nita distributed an updated list of Harvest Festival participants.

Coop reported on his calculations regarding the number of cars that can be parked in the presently designated parking areas. The group agreed additional space will be needed during the Harvest Festival and that the meadow areas near the Community Garden and south of the Welcome Sign Parking Area would be used. They will need to be mowed prior to the event.

Nita will contact Marc Tate for maps needed to plan the event. Coop will update the Trail Maps and consider the possibility of issuing instructions for “self-guided” trail walks. Coop will also prepare letters to be sent to tenants and neighbors informing them of the event. Ed will clear some wood debris where a planned “fairy trail” for children will be set up.

7) Priorities for August 24, 2015 Agenda

- Plans for the Harvest Festival

Respectfully submitted, Richard B. Cooper