

Town of North Stonington, CT
HEWITT FARM COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Monday, January 5, 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 3:06 p.m. in the New Town Hall Conference Room with members Ellie Banker, Jack Brown, Dick (Coop) Cooper, Ed Harasimowitz and Nita Kincaid present. Cindy Faucher joined the group at 3:20.

1) Approve 12/15/2014 Meeting Minutes

Ellie motioned and Ed seconded to approve the 12/15/2014 Meeting Minutes. The motion carried.

2) Dam Reconstruction Project

Nita reported on the recent dam reconstruction progress meeting she had attended, and briefly described the contractor's work and plans going forward. Group members have been visiting the site individually and had much to discuss. All are generally pleased with progress and are hoping for good weather to enable completion this spring.

3) Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Budget

Nita distributed a copy of the current *Hewitt Farm Budget Request Fiscal Year July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015*, which she had updated to show the 2015/2016 estimated values for "Anticipated Revenue" (Section I) and "Spending Request" (Section II).

The group discussed its plans for the upcoming year and concluded that the *2015-2016 Budget Request* should be increased to \$10,000. This amount would enable the committee to obtain a much-needed professional evaluation of the condition of the 1750 Farm House and the Cabin. The details of these evaluations will be discussed at subsequent meetings.

4) Identify Goals and Related Plans for 2015

The group reviewed its current *Hewitt Farm Vision* and *Hewitt Farm Mission* statements to determine if anything had changed over the past year or would be occurring in the future that changes them. It was agreed that both statements remain valid.

This discussion led to an agreement among members on three major goals for the next calendar year. The group resolved that as soon as the dam is completed, the Route 2 sign should be put in place. Comments followed on the current appearance of the

Route 2 Entrance. The committee agreed that other improvements to make the entranceway more welcoming are needed.

The group agreed that the cabin's condition and future use will need to be determined this year. In addition a plan for improvements to the 1750 Farm House should be initiated.

It was noted that it would be desirable to hold a public event, similar to the one the committee held in 2011. The completion of the dam and entranceway can be shared with the public and all can enjoy a day of activities at the farm.

The group agreed to the following goals for 2015:

1. Undertake and complete a restoration of the Route 2 Entrance, including erection of the new Hewitt Farm sign, landscaping, removal of certain trees, and improvement to the parking area.
2. Conduct a public event to celebrate Hewitt Farm's "new look."
3. Oversee an evaluation of the condition of the Cabin and the 1750 Farm House, and develop a plan for their improvement, maintenance and funding.

5) 1750 Farm House Inspection

The annual inspection of the 1750 Farm House was recently conducted by committee members Nita, Cindy and Ed. A few items were identified for repair and have been communicated to the First Selectman.

6) Review of Hayfield and Community Garden Agreements

At the January 26th meeting both the hayfield farmers and the Community Garden Association will be on the agenda. In each instance, we will receive their annual report and discuss their plans for the coming year.

7) Priorities for January 26, 2015 Agenda

- Annual reviews from the hayfield farmers and the Community Garden Association
- Other topics to be determined by the co-chairs

Respectfully submitted, Richard B. Cooper