

Town of North Stonington, CT
HEWITT FARM COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Monday, March 23, 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 03/09/2015 Meeting Minutes

Ellie motioned and Nita seconded to approve the 3/09/2015 Meeting Minutes. The motion carried.

2) Status of Dam Reconstruction Project

Nita informed the group that due to the adverse cold, snowy and windy weather experienced during the past month or so, work on the dam reconstruction was put on hold until conditions improved.

Jack reviewed a request he had made months ago for removal of trees near the Hewitt Farm Route 2 Entrance, which cause significant sightline problems. At various times he had discussed his concerns with the First Selectman, the tree warden and the committee. The committee anticipates an increase in traffic once the bridge over the dam is complete, and after the planned landscaping and new sign at the Route 2 Entrance are installed. Of primary concern is the ability (or inability) of vehicles exiting Hewitt Road to see traffic approaching on Route 2 from either direction.

Most recently, a tree pruning service has been working in the area. This prompted Jack, Nita, First Selectman Mullane and Tree Warden Holliday to meet at the farm to identify and mark the six large trees that line Route 2 on both sides of the entrance; these are the trees that contribute to the sightline issues. It is the committee's hope that those trees will be removed as part of the work being done by the electric power company.

3) Research on the Cabin

Cindy told the group that she is continuing to research the history of the Cabin, once owned by her family and used as a retreat for summer get-togethers.

Nita stated that she and Ellie had each spoken to Brian Crandall who does professional restoration and reconstruction. He later met with Nita at the Cabin to inspect the structure. Nita wrote a brief report summarizing the results of this meeting and distributed it to the committee for discussion. She described how Mr. Crandall

conducted the inspection and what he found. Mr. Crandall emphasized that a more thorough evaluation of the structure is not possible until an examination of certain currently inaccessible areas can be made.

The committee agreed that since its goal is to provide a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen on the future of the Cabin, it would be best to open up some of these areas, as well as to obtain a "second opinion" on its condition. Nita will communicate this recommendation to First Selectman Mullane and also ask his advice about obtaining an estimate of the cost for removal of the structure.

The committee believes that if North Stonington residents are going to be asked to fund work on The Cabin, whether it be for restoration, reconstruction or removal, a cost/benefit analysis between all of these options will be needed.

4) Greene Gables

Referencing a note she had received from Laurie Pepin, Nita passed along an invitation to committee members to attend a book-signing event sponsored by the North Stonington Historical Society on March 28th from 1 to 4 p.m. The book contains the history and works of Fred Stewart Greene who owned the former "Greene Gables" building located on Hewitt Farm.

5) CT Trails Weekend

Nita had spoken with Cindy about possible trail walks that could occur at Hewitt Farm on CT Trails Weekend and then submitted to the CT Forest and Park Association the information required for their announcement brochure. The committee has agreed to lead a walk over the Bicentennial Trail on Sunday June 7th as part of that celebration.

6) Member Updates and On-going Projects

Nita reported that Harvest Festival planning continues. She also stated that she had been informed the shed structure being constructed for the Community Garden by Eagle Scout Candidate Roy Amaral is located at the Highway Department garage and is almost complete. According to Roy's schedule, it will be placed at the garden before mid-April.

Jack asked if three of the large flat stones currently located near the dam site can be saved and used for fishermen and others to sit on pond-side. Nita responded that there are some very good stones, but they are currently earmarked for completion of the tops of stone walls in the bridge area. We will have to wait to see if any will be available for other uses.

7) Priorities for April 6, 2015 Agenda

- Topics to be determined by the co-chairs

Respectfully submitted, Richard B. Cooper