

Town of North Stonington, CT

HEWITT FARM COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

**Monday, December 12, 2011 at 3:00 p.m
New Town Hall Conference Room**

The meeting of the Hewitt Farm Committee was called to order by Nita Kincaid at 3:05 p.m. in the New Town Hall Conference Room with members Ellie Banker, Jack Brown, Dick (Coop) Cooper, Ed Harasimowitz, Nita Kincaid and Eddie McGowan present. Rubin Spitz was also in attendance.

1) Approve 12/05/11 Regular Meeting Minutes.

Nita explained that the reason a "DRAFT" set of 12/05/2011 Minutes had been sent to committee members in advance of the meeting was so that they could review them to determine if their words, as recorded, accurately represented their "vision" of Hewitt Farm. In response to this draft Jack had emailed a brief clarification of his description of a "Mini Farm". Ellie had no corrections to the minutes, but she did provide a paper with additional thoughts on the vision to be used as we continued our discussion. Nita reworded the draft minutes to reflect Jack's change in the farm description. Eddie then motioned to approve these 12/05/2011 Minutes and Ed seconded. The motion carried.

2) Discuss any needed temporary signs for open hours and parking, as well as clearer definition of parking areas.

Coop stated that he had marked a parking area with relatively small logs to see how it would be used by visitors to Hewitt Farm. The group discussed possible additional areas on the property where temporary signs might help direct the many visitors we are experiencing. Coop indicated that he would provide a list of areas to be marked for parking and that he will attempt to obtain larger logs and place them in locations that better define where cars should be parked.

Coop will also install two signs at the end of the ramps at the western entrance to Hewitt Farm that say "NO VEHICLES BEYOND THIS POINT."

3) Member Updates

Meeting Schedule. Nita next distributed a copy of the 2012 Meeting Schedule for review by the committee. She motioned and Eddie seconded to approve the schedule. The motion carried.

Footbridge Project. Eddie reminded the group that tonight (12/12/11) Eagle Scout candidate Tom Kane was making a presentation to the Troop 71 Committee describing his plans for constructing the Shunock River footbridges. Coop and Ed assured him that they would be attending that meeting.

Friends of Hewitt Farm. Nita next distributed a list of names of individuals who, during the Celebrate Fall event, had indicated an interest in participating in a "Friends" organization. Nita suggested that the committee invite them to a meeting sometime in the near future to discuss "where to go from here."

Nita will send each of them a card thanking them for their interest and inviting them to a meeting early in the new year.

Work Plan. Ed distributed a revised version of the committee's Work Plan and briefly explained his rationale for the few changes that he had made. He stated that there were some task descriptions that should be further defined and that a detailed review of the plan, task by task, should be conducted soon.

Nita suggested that the committee should first finish developing its "vision" of Hewitt Farm, then go back to revising and prioritizing the Work Plan to make it more relevant.

4) Addition to the Agenda: North Stonington resident Rubin Spitz

Nita introduced Rubin Spitz who had come to the meeting to share some ideas he had about Hewitt Farm. Rubin was responsible for the metal sculpture exhibit that graced the lawn at the Transfer Station this summer. The artwork was well received by North Stonington residents who visited the Transfer Station as well as those who traveled there just to see it.

Rubin explained that he and his wife operate "*Provenance Center*" an art gallery in New London. He noted that he had spoken with First Selectman Nick Mullane about the possibility of exhibiting this type of art at Hewitt Farm and Nick had referred him to the committee. He suggested he could do an exhibit in June on the Hewitt Farm Green as simple as what he had done at the Transfer Station, which was a "sculpture garden" on display for a short period of time or he could do something more elaborate with an opening event with entertainment and many exhibiting artists. He noted a more permanent sculpture garden could also be considered. Rubin stated that whatever is done, it would be very tasteful and in synch with the natural landscape of Hewitt Farm. He noted that fund-raising could be incorporated with the exhibit and that his wife would consider developing a website for the exhibit and Hewitt Farm.

Rubin also expressed some thoughts on using Hewitt Pond for the generation of hydro-electricity that could be used on the farm and possibly elsewhere in town.

Members of the committee briefly discussed some of Rubin's ideas and told him they would be included on a future Agenda.

5) Continue discussion of "Vision for Hewitt Farm."

Nita distributed a detailed list of "Vision" comments that had been made at the last meeting by each of the committee members; this list showed both her & Coop's notes on each person's input. She then labeled a paper flip-chart as "Shared Vision" and asked members to identify those items which were a part of every committee member's vision for the farm. After listing a few items, it was recognized that there was not sufficient time remaining in the meeting to complete this exercise. It was agreed to continue the exercise at the next meeting on January 9th. Nita promised to type and distribute the brief contents of the flip chart as a starting point.

6) Any Items for the 01/09/12 Agenda.

- a. Continue discussion on "Vision for Hewitt Farm."
- b. If time permits:
 - o Discussion of Jeff Hubbard's proposal to install beehives.
 - o Discussion of Rubin Spitz's proposal for a Metal Sculpture Exhibit.

The next meeting is scheduled for **January 9, 2012 at 3:00 p.m. in the New Town Hall Conference Room.**

The meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Richard B. Cooper