

Town of North Stonington, CT
HEWITT FARM COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Monday, June 18, 2012 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 3:09 p.m. in the New Town Hall Conference Room with members Ellie Banker, Jack Brown, Dick (Coop) Cooper, Ed Harasimowitz and Nita Kincaid present.

1) Approve 06/04/12 Regular Meeting Minutes

Ellie noted that the 06/04/12 Minutes should be amended to reflect that she had reported a proposed school music event would most likely be performed in the spring of 2013, not this coming fall. Nita will revise the Minutes to reflect this change. Coop motioned and Ed seconded to approve the Minutes as amended. The motion carried.

2) Discuss Hewitt Farm signs for "Uses & Rules"

The group agreed that three signs describing farm uses & rules should be requested from the Highway Department and that one of them be installed at each of the two Parking Areas. Location of the third sign was not resolved but, for the time being, it would be retained as a spare.

Ellie suggested that the sign should contain two groups of uses and rules, the top group titled "YES" and the bottom group titled "NO." The committee reviewed several lists previously submitted by members and agreed on the phrases for the two groups. Nita will arrange a draft sign containing these phrases for further review and approval at the next meeting.

3) Update on mailing to "Friends of Hewitt Farm"

Coop explained the two different categories of letters ("Confirmed Friends" and "Prospective Friends") that were sent and the types of replies that have been received back. A total of 55 letters were mailed on June 12, 2012. Both he and Nita, and the town website are receiving replies.

Coop will email to Nita the name list that was used to send these letters so that she can keep track of whatever information such as phone numbers, email addresses and willingness to participate, that is received back. Nita stated that from all reports so far, the letters have been well received.

4) Progress on Ryder Road Entrance Sign and area

Nita described the design history of the sign to date. She then distributed a summary of comments that she had provided to the Fossil Art Director during the prior week. The group discussed each of the items on the list and agreed on which ones were most important to pursue with Fossil.

5) Update on Greene Gables resolution

Nita stated that a letter was sent to the President and Vice President of the North Stonington Historical Society on June 8, 2012 describing the asbestos and lead survey performed at Greene Gables and inviting the Board of Trustees to select a date to visit the structure, if they so desire. Nita recommended that if we do not receive an answer to this invitation before our next meeting on July 2, 2012, we should request the First Selectman contact them to inform them that it is important to reach a Greene Gables resolution.

6) Update of progress on tenant leases

Nita stated that she and Ed would be meeting with First Selectman Mullane tomorrow (06/19/2012) to review the draft tenant leases and to agree upon next steps.

The group agreed that Nita and Ed would represent the committee on the rental property inspections, when they are conducted.

7) Results of June 11th inspection workshop at Hewitt Farm

Nita briefly described the inspection of Hewitt Farm on June 11, 2012 by three committee members (Ellie, Coop and Nita) and one member of the public. The group visited areas of previous concern or work activity, and some such as the wells and pump house that had not previously been examined.

Alternative ways for maintaining the recently cleared hillside and the flat area that extends from the stone wall (behind the new sign's proposed location) up to the beginning of the currently defined meadow were briefly discussed by the committee.

8) Review *Suggestions for Work Projects at Hewitt Farm*

The committee considered review and discussion of items that are on a list entitled *Suggestions for Work Projects at Hewitt Farm* dated 06/08/2012. This list was compiled by Coop and distributed at an earlier meeting. The list is the result of a request by a Boy Scout and his troop leader who had asked what projects could be undertaken on Hewitt Farm that might fulfill the requirements for Eagle Scout. The list was written after this request was made and to date has not been made public.

The committee agreed to review the list at the next meeting so that it can be made available to individuals or organizations interested in pursuing projects on Hewitt Farm.

9) Member updates on projects & any additional items for group discussion

Jim Leonaitis communicated to Nita that Tom Kane and his work party from Scout Troop 71 will be installing the footbridges on Saturday, June 23, 2012 starting at 8:00 a.m. and lasting until the job is done. Nita will maintain contact with Jim as this time approaches so that the media can be given sufficient notification.

The construction of Karin Leiper's Butterfly Garden is complete. She is currently in the process of making signs for the garden. Coop will trim the tall grass and weeds along the stone wall in front of the garden, under the stone table, and behind the garden under the bushes. He was given approval to do this by committee members during the property inspection on June 11th.

Grant Leiper also notified Nita that he has received most of the materials for his Eagle Scout project and will soon begin construction of the picnic tables.

Ellie noted that the Education Foundation is considering holding an event some time in late summer before school starts. Organizers are currently "thinking" of a family get-together type event. Ellie asked if this type of event would be an acceptable use of Hewitt Farm. The committee felt this sounded like the kind of use that should be encouraged on the property.

Nita stated that she will be sending a letter to those non-profit organizations that participated in "Celebrate Fall" reminding them that Hewitt Farm is available for their use and inviting them to take advantage of the opportunity. The mailing will include an *Event Application*.

10) Public comments and questions

There were none.

11) Priorities for the July 2, 2012 Agenda

- a) Update on mailing to "Friends of Hewitt Farm"
- b) Progress on manufacture and installation of Ryder Road Entrance Sign
- c) Update on ongoing projects (Scout projects and others)
- d) Update on Greene Gables resolution.
- e) Update of progress on Tenant Leases.
- f) List of *Suggestions for Work Projects at Hewitt Farm*

The meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Richard B. Cooper