

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

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**Monday, February 11, 2013 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 3:06 p.m. in the New Town Hall Conference Room with members Ellie Banker, Dick (Coop) Cooper, Ed Harasimowitz, Nita Kincaid and Eddie McGowan present.

1) Approve 01/28/2013 Meeting Minutes

Ed motioned and Eddie seconded to approve the 01/28/2013 Meeting Minutes. The motion carried.

2) Discuss Community Garden next steps

Nita reviewed Community Garden communications that had recently occurred. She noted that Mary Ann Ricker had approached State Representative Diana Urban asking about the possibility of obtaining grant money for the establishment and operation of a Community Garden.

Diana had then communicated to Ellie that she would first need to know if such a project could be approved for Hewitt Farm. Subsequently Mary Ann asked the committee to verify that "Community Garden" is an approved use on the farm and, if not, what steps are necessary to obtain such approval. The committee recognized that Mary Ann does not want to do a lot of research, organizing, and soliciting of funds and participants if the use is not permitted.

Nita read aloud the Minutes of the meeting in which the committee last discussed the possibility of Community Gardens with Mary Ann. Polled individually, the group all agreed that it first had to determine if Community Gardens met the requirements of "Hewitt Farm Proposed Uses, Rules and Recommendations" approved at the Town Meeting on December 15, 2010. If so, the committee would allow Community Gardens on the farm provided an *Event/Project Application* is submitted that sufficiently assures the project will comply with the farm's mission and will be an asset to the property.

Eddie stated his concern that if grant money is obtained for the project, it must not detract from nor substitute for grant money requested for other work on the farm.

With the group agreeing that it must first determine whether Community Gardens are an allowed use on Hewitt Farm, Nita distributed three documents for discussion. These

documents were (a) "Hewitt Farm Proposed Uses, Rules and Recommendations, December 15, 2010," (b) "Definitions from the Merriam-Webster Dictionary and Dictionary.com," and (c) "10 Steps to Starting a Community Garden, American Community Gardening Association."

After a review of these documents and considerable discussion by the committee, the following motion was made by Nita and seconded by Ellie: "I move that that the Hewitt Farm Committee believes that a Community Garden is an allowed use for the Hewitt Farm, falling under item 5 of the "Hewitt Farm Uses, Rules and Recommendations" approved at a Town Meeting on December 15, 2010. We also recognize that such a garden would be a positive opportunity for community members to use the property." The motion carried unanimously.

Nita will present this decision to the Board of Selectmen. If it is agreed-to by them, Nita will notify Mary Ann to begin her research and development of her plan. Nita will also suggest to Mary Ann to communicate with the committee, if she has any questions about the information that we would expect to receive in an actual proposed plan. The committee agreed that we would apply the same kinds of evaluation criteria that we have used for proposals from other town groups.

### 3) Member updates on projects and any additional items for group discussion

Ellie briefly described her and Eddie's meeting with the Historical Society regarding Greene Gables. She noted that the committee should be expecting a report from the Society in March.

Ellie read an email from Mike Costanza, a member of NSEF, to Cinda Spavins regarding the proposed concert of student bands to be held on or about June 1st.

Nita reported that the chimney work on the 1750 Farm House has been completed for below estimated cost.

The group discussed the possibility of increasing the dollar amount of the Southeastern Connecticut Water Company's lease with the town as provided-for in that lease. This proposal will be discussed with the Board of Selectmen.

Eddie stated that he is working on a fishing event on Hewitt Farm scheduled for opening day of fishing season. He noted that he would discuss his plans with Jack before proceeding. Nita will write a notice of this event and submit it to John Hines for publication in the spring issue of "North Stonington Today."

### 4) Public comments and Questions

No members of the public were present.

### 5) Priorities for February 25, 2013 agenda

- Determine next steps on 2012 incomplete projects
- Prioritize committee goals for 2013 and identify "lead" members

The meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Richard B. Cooper