

Town of North Stonington. CT
HEWITT FARM COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Monday, October 31, 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 with members Ellie Banker, Dick (Coop) Cooper, Ed Harasimowitz, Eddie McGowan and Nita Kincaid present.

Nita opened the meeting by reading a letter from Jack Brown in which he expressed his desire to resign from the Hewitt Farm Committee. Eddie motioned and Coop seconded to table discussion on the matter for 30 days in order to allow time to speak with Jack about his decision. The motion carried unanimously.

1. Approve 10/17/11 Regular Meeting Minutes

Eddie motioned and Ed seconded to approve the 10/17/11 Minutes with the following change: The second sentence of the first paragraph in Item #2 should read, "He reported that the committee currently has a scholarship fund that makes an annual award to any graduating senior living in North Stonington."

2. Discussion of Bicentennial Fund Scholarship Program

Eddie stated that after looking at other organizations that manage scholarship funds, he believes the committee is not the appropriate group to do this.

Nita stated that the responsibility of managing a scholarship fund does not fit the committee's mission and that it could be done much better by a group more closely affiliated with the schools and education in our community.

Ellie provided a brief history of the Bicentennial Fund Scholarship Program in general.

Coop motioned and Nita seconded to send Chuck Cushman a letter respectfully declining the offer to assume responsibility for managing the scholarship fund because it does not fit the Hewitt Farm Committee's mission and the reasons for which the committee was formed. Ellie will draft such a letter noting that we consider it an honor to have been asked by him to assume that responsibility.

3. Status of Follow-up Activities for "Celebrate Fall"

Nita referred to a list of people to whom she and Coop will send "thank you" letters for their work and participation in the "Celebrate Fall" event. Ellie asked if there were any letters that the other members of the committee should write. Nita explained that she and Coop had developed a standard format for the letters and were then personalizing each one to address the contribution of each recipient.

Nita reminded the committee about the receipt of a grant of \$1,400 from the North Stonington Garden Club to be used for improvements at the back entrance to the farm and noted that she had sent a thank you to the Garden Club on behalf of the committee. A detailed plan for the sign will be completed this winter, so that it can be installed during spring 2012.

4. Status of Facebook page, email address and website possibilities.

The group reviewed what currently exists in the way of an internet "information site" and "contact information" for Hewitt Farm and the committee itself. It was agreed that Eddie continue creating the Facebook page. He will also investigate if an acquaintance will design a website for us that is independent of the Town website.

The Town website would continue to meet the standard requirements of providing information on committee members, Agenda and Minutes. Our own website would contain photos and more complete information about Hewitt Farm itself. We would then establish a link between the Town website and the Hewitt Farm site.

5. Identification of physical work to be done on the property prior to winter.

Coop noted that Tree-of-Heaven cuttings are still laying on the ground near the entrance to the Farm House Meadow and should be removed before winter sets in.

Ed and Coop will install a plank footbridge at the stream crossing on the trail directly across from #59 Hewitt Road. They will do this sometime soon at no cost to the town.

6. Review of priorities to be completed prior to 2011 year end.

Nita stated that we need to move forward on the analysis of Greene Gables to determine its future. Coop will contact the towns recommended by Elaine Sych (Connecticut ERT) to see if they will share the experiences they have had in a similar circumstances. Ed will ask the Building Officials to conduct their agreed-to review of Greene Gables and describe their findings in writing.

Nita noted that "Hewitt Farm" may be a "Line Item" on the next town budget and that the committee should be prepared with information on financial income and expenses. She also noted that some of the leases that the Town has with Hewitt Farm tenants have expired, and should be negotiated and signed. Ed offered to look into what types of leases would be appropriate.

The Group discussed Jack Brown's proposed letter to DEEP requesting that Hewitt Pond (known to the DEEP as "Lewis Pond") be considered for the stocking of channel catfish under the DEEP's Community Fishing Program.

Coop recommended that the letter refer to the pond as Lewis Pond and that the excerpt from the ERT Report titled *Fisheries Resources* be included along with the letter. This will provide the DEEP with readily available information on the pond.

The group agreed to postpone sending the letter until further discussion.

7. Public Comments and Questions.

No one from the public was present.

8. Any new items for 11/14/11 Agenda.

It was noted by Nita that neither Marc Tardiff nor Tom Kane who had been listed on the agenda had arrived to cover their topics. It was suggested that they might plan to come to the next meeting..

The next meeting of the Hewitt Farm Committee will be on **Monday, November 14, 2011 at 3:00 p.m. in the New Town Hall Conference Room.**

Nita motioned and Ed seconded to adjourn the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Richard B. Cooper