

Town of North Stonington. CT
HEWITT FARM COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Monday, October 17, 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 3:00 p.m. in the New Town Hall with members Ellie Banker, Jack Brown, Dick (Coop) Cooper, Ed Harasimowitz, and Nita Kincaid present. Eddie McGown arrived at 3:20 p.m.

Chuck Cushman, Chairman of the 2007 Bicentennial Committee, was also in attendance for part of the meeting.

1. Approve 09/26/11 Regular Meeting Minutes

Ellie motioned and Ed seconded to approve the 09/26/11 Minutes with the following change: Item #1 should read, "Ellie motioned and it was seconded to approve the 09/26/11 Minutes."

Nita asked the committee if it would consider moving Item #5 on the Agenda (Public Comments and Questions) to the next item so that Chuck Cushman could be heard. The committee agreed.

2. Public Comments & Questions

Chuck Cushman introduced himself as the Chairman of the 2007 Bicentennial Committee. He reported that the committee currently has a scholarship fund that makes an annual scholarship award to a Wheeler High School graduate. His request is for the Hewitt Farm Committee is to take over responsibility for managing this fund.

Chuck stated that there is an estimated \$12,500 in the fund which currently resides in a checking account and investment account with ChelseaGroton Bank. The award amount has previously been \$1,000 per year, which leaves enough money for an estimated 13 more years.

Chuck stated that he had not yet approached the Bicentennial Committee with this proposal because he wanted to determine if the Hewitt Farm Committee was willing to assume the responsibility. The committee asked numerous questions about how the money was raised and what would be required of the group which manages it. Chuck explained that the primary function of the committee would be to continue fundraising activities, so that the scholarships could be continued for many years. He noted that the

Bicentennial Committee was no longer active and that he had identified the Hewitt Farm Committee, because it was gaining visibility in town and was in a better position to raise funds. He also mentioned that Hewitt Farm Committee member Ellie Banker is quite knowledgeable about how the Bicentennial scholarships have been awarded, as she has been part of that function since the time of the Bicentennial Committee. This award process would also be under the direction of any new committee which takes over these Bicentennial funds. He mentioned that the existing dollars in the fund could give some "start-up" funds to Hewitt Farm which would then need to be replaced by future fundraising efforts. Chuck agreed that he would be willing to help raise funds. It was recognized that there are no organizational documents that describe the Bicentennial Scholarship Fund Committee.

Nita suggested that the Hewitt Farm Committee might not be the appropriate organization to assume this responsibility, but all agreed that they should discuss the offer at the next Regular Meeting and would then get back to Chuck with any questions and/or a response to his request.

3. Brief discussion of Hewitt Pond Dam and Bridge Repairs.

Nita reported that Karl Acimovic, the engineer designing the Hewitt Dam reconstruction project, will make a presentation to the committee at the next Board of Selectmen's meeting on October 18th. Nita will be unable to attend, but asked that we all be there to learn as much as possible about the dam's design and construction schedule.

The group agreed that at that time Jack should submit his recommendations on provisions to facilitate fishing in Hewitt Pond and below the dam. Jack will update the paper he previously gave to the committee and will provide it to the Board of Selectmen and Mr. Acimovic.

4. Review of "Celebrate Fall" plans: identification of remaining "To-Do" list.

Nita reviewed the "To-Do" list of things that yet need to be accomplished in preparation for the "Celebrate Fall" event.

5. Any Member Updates on projects or additional items for future group discussion.

The group discussed the work which has been done on Hewitt Farm to date and agreed that there should be no additional cutting of non-invasive trees until a policy addressing the issue can be established. The clearing of invasive Tree-of-Heaven, Autumn Olive and other invasive plant species, however, should continue.

The continued review of the Hewitt Farm Committee work plan tasks were postponed until after the "Celebrate Fall" event.

6. Identify any new items for the 10/31/11 Agenda

- Discussion of Chuck Cushman's offer for the Hewitt Farm Committee to assume responsibility for the **Bicentennial Committee Scholarship Fund**.

The next meeting of the Hewitt Farm Committee will be held on **Monday, October 31, 2011 at 3:00 p.m. in the New Town Hall Conference Room.**

Eddie motioned and Ed seconded to adjourn the meeting at 5:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Richard B. Cooper