

Town of North Stonington, CT
HEWITT FARM COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Monday, November 28, 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 3:04 p.m. in the New Town Hall with members Ellie Banker, Dick (Coop) Cooper, Ed Harasimowitz and Nita Kincaid present. Guest Jeff Hubbard arrived a few minutes later.

1. Approve 11/14/11 Regular Meeting Minutes.

Ellie motioned and Ed seconded to approve the 11/14/2011 Minutes as submitted.

Nita then asked for a motion to amend the Agenda to include the following topics. The motion made by Ellie and seconded by Coop to amend the Agenda carried.

Meeting dates for 2012 - The committee reviewed the proposed calendar and agreed to 2012 meeting dates pending Eddie McGowan's acknowledgement that he will continue to be able to attend on Monday afternoons. If satisfactory, Nita will finalize the schedule.

Perkin's request to define and mark parking areas on hay fields - The group agreed that some type of markers and/or signs should be posted. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

Request to install a Frisbee golf course - Eddie was not in attendance and there was no discussion on the subject.

Group discussion of each individual's "vision" for Hewitt Farm. This discussion will take place at a Special Meeting to be conducted on December 5, 2011.

3. Jeff Hubbard: Bee Project

Jeff, a resident of 275 Norwich-Westerly Road, then arrived to describe his proposal to locate beehives on Hewitt Farm. He told how he had gotten interested in bees and that he had walked around Hewitt Farm and believed the Greene Gables Meadow to be a good location for the hives.

Jeff also showed some equipment that he uses for beekeeping and described the process of tending the bees. The committee discussed with Jeff the need for signs, concerns over liability, potential locations other than the Greene Gables Meadow, and how soon he needs an approval decision. Jeff said that he needed to know by April at the latest so that he has time to set up the hives. Nita suggested that the committee could make a decision by February, but Coop asked if the decision could not be made sooner to give Jeff opportunity to plan for

another location. The committee will provide Jeff with a firm decision date as soon as possible.

2. Sue Sutherland from the Groton Open Space Association (GOSA)

Sue shared her recent experiences with evaluating buildings on the Sheep Farm in Groton, which GOSA had purchased in December 2010. At that time the property contained eight structures that were evaluated by a number of professionals, including staff from the State of Connecticut. It was concluded that the structures were unsafe and of little value either historically or for public or private use. The structures were subsequently demolished and GOSA has now worked to preserve foundations and other remains so that the history of the property can continue to be told even though the buildings are no longer there.

Sue also explained how GOSA's objectives as a private non-profit organization were somewhat different than ours, but that their experiences on this and other properties they own might be helpful. The group asked Sue about some of the uses allowed on the Sheep Farm and GOSA's vision for its future. The group thanked Sue very much for her words of encouragement and for making her presentation to us.

4. Member updates on projects

Ed stated that he had had no communication back from the Building Officials regarding their impending inspection of Greene Gables. He will continue to pursue their assistance, as we would like to begin our review with their input. It was suggested that we begin to compile a list of other people to contact for input on Greene Gables.

Coop reported that he is still having trouble getting the official name of the pond "nailed down." He will ask the DEEP to resolve the issue given that there appear to be three ponds on the Phelps Brook/Shunock Brook/Shunock River waterway and at one time or another they all appear to have been named Hewitt Pond. Nita suggested we should strive for "Hewitt Pond" and that "Lewis Pond" should be our last choice, as we are unaware of any Lewis family connection to the property or the pond. Coop will communicate this back to DEEP.

Coop then explained that he had two purposes for the "DRAFT Permitted and Prohibited" list he compiled and had distributed. First was to get the committee thinking about the types of things that the town wants to occur on Hewitt Farm (a "vision") and the second, because there are still many "undesirable" things that could happen on the property (and already do) that are not addressed in writing and therefore are unenforceable.

The group then agreed that the next thing it had to do is to start talking about this "vision." That will be the main topic of discussion at a **Special Meeting scheduled for December 5, 2011 at 3:00 P.M. in the New Town Hall Conference Room.**

The meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.
Respectfully submitted, Richard B. Cooper