

Town of North Stonington, CT
HEWITT FARM COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Monday, November 14, 2011 at 3:00 p.m
New Town Hall Conference Room

The meeting of the Hewitt Farm Committee was scheduled for 3:00 p.m. at the New Town Hall, but at that time the room was in use by representatives from the Assessor's Office. The meeting was moved to the Old Town Hall conference room and a written notice stating the new meeting place, was posted on the New Town Hall door. The meeting was then called to order by Nita at 3:08 p.m. at the Old Town Hall with members Ellie Banker, Dick (Coop) Cooper, Ed Harasimowitz, and Nita Kincaid present. Eddie McGowan joined the group at 3:12 p.m.

Mark Tardiff arrived at 4:00 pm. to report on his History Sign Project.

1. Approve 10/31/11 Regular Meeting Minutes

Ellie motioned and Nita seconded to approve the 10/31/11 Minutes.

2. Member updates on projects and any additional items for group discussion

Ellie stated that the Historical Society has found a number of photographic plates showing Greene Gables, but that she has not yet seen them.

Nita noted that the Town Clerk would shortly be requesting the *2012 Schedule of Meetings* for the committee and that she would write a tentative schedule to be finalized at the next meeting.

Eddie reported that the committee's Facebook page is up and running although he has been unable to install photographs yet.

Nita reported that she had spoken with Jack Brown to inform him that the group had tabled his request to resign from the committee, since it was hoped that he might reconsider. She reported that he would consider the request and will communicate back to us within 30 days. It was noted that Jack was instrumental in promoting the use of Hewitt Farm as a first class fishing site and that his passion and knowledge of fishing is essential to that goal.

Coop reported that he was making slow but steady progress in writing the *Operation and Maintenance Plan*. Ellie noted that it is very important, now that the "Celebrate Fall" event is over, that we devote time to discussing our own individual "visions" of

Hewitt Farm and its future. Coop agreed, stating that for the next meeting he will compile a detailed list of permitted and prohibited uses and activities which, he believes, will lead to such a discussion.

Coop described his phone conversation with Brian Murphy, DEEP Inland Fisheries Division and major contributor to the ERT report. Brian will investigate (a) whether the channel catfish stocking program is appropriate for Hewitt Pond, (b) whether we should be using the name "Lewis Pond" instead of "Hewitt Pond," and (c) what UCONN's Bridle Shiner counting project is "all about."

Coop also said that Elaine Sych, ERT Coordinator, had provided him with a list of towns that have experienced situations similar to ours with regard to the disposition of "Greene Gables." Nita said that she was in contact with a member of the Groton Open Space Association (GOSA) who may have knowledge to offer us with regard to this same topic. Nita will extend an invitation to her to address the committee at a future meeting.

Mark Tardiff, History Teacher and Cross Country Track Coach at Wheeler High School and Middle School, arrived to explain to the committee his progress with the History Sign Project. Mark distributed photographs of signs at Bluff Point and Haley Farm, which appear relatively similar in design to those that he and his students are considering.

He noted that the History Sign could perform a function somewhat different from the one to be erected at the north entrance to Hewitt Farm. The committee then discussed the most appropriate location for the History Sign and how this location could be determined. Mark will return at the December 12th meeting to show sketches of what the sign might look like.

Nita stated that those individuals at the "Celebrate Fall" event who expressed an interest in becoming a "Friend of Hewitt Farm" should be contacted soon and that we should possibly hold a second workshop meeting in December (only one meeting is currently scheduled for December) so we could plan how we will interact with the "Friends". Ed expressed that there should be a "vision for Hewitt Farm" available to these individuals so that they know what they are "buying into."

The group agreed - as Ellie has been saying all along - that it needs to begin the discussion and documentation of this "vision" before 2011 year end.

3. Review of work plan; identification of any priorities to be completed prior to 2011 year end.

Nita next led the group through a review of the *Work Plan*, assigning percent complete scores to each task. Ed offered to re-write each "Task Description" to make it more representative of what the task actually entails. It was pleasantly discovered that many

tasks have been completed as a result of staging the "Celebrate Fall event. Several new tasks,however, were added.

4. Public Comments and Questions.

No one from the public was present.

5. Any new items for 11/28/11 Agenda.

None were identified at this time.

The next meeting of the Hewitt Farm Committee will be on **Monday, November 28, 2011 at 3:00 p.m. in the New Town Hall Conference Room.**

Eddie motioned and Ellie seconded to adjourn the meeting at 5:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Richard B. Cooper