

Town of North Stonington. CT
HEWITT FARM COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Monday, September 12, 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 3:14 p.m. in the New Town Hall with members Ellie Banker, Dick (Coop) Cooper, Ed Harasimowitz, Nita Kincaid and Eddie McGowan present.

1. Approve 08/22/11 Minutes

Eddie motioned and Ellie seconded to approve the 08/22/11 Minutes.

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

a. Jack (entrances, dam)

Ed spoke for Jack in his absence. Ed reported that there was considerable progress at the new entranceway and in front of the stone wall near the Cabin. Two helpers have been provided and are helping Jack clear the Tree-of-Heaven and brush.

Nita added that she and Coop had attended the Planning and Zoning Commission meeting last Thursday and had obtained permission from the commission to cut the marked trees which about the Scenic Road near the new entranceway.

b. Eddie (Facebook, email address)

Using his laptop computer, Eddie provided the committee with a demonstration of how to log onto Facebook, how to obtain information from Facebook, and how to establish a Facebook page. The committee agreed that he should go ahead and design a "Hewitt Farm" page, but should not "launch" it until all committee members have had a chance to see it. Nita will provide a required photograph for the page.

The group also agreed that at some time in the near future it should put a well designed website in place. Who would do this or how it would be done will be the subjects of another meeting.

Eddie also established an email account for the committee to communicate with the public. The address is hewittfarm06359@aol.com. Eddie gave each committee member the password.

The group next reviewed a DRAFT of the *Friends of Hewitt Farm Application*, which will be available at the "Celebrate Fall" event table. When its design is final, Eddie will post it on the Facebook page.

c. Ellie (Greene Gables history)

Ellie stated that she had searched in the Historical Society archives and could not find any information with regard to Greene Gables history before it was deeded to the Mystic Seaport by Flora Hewitt. Coop noted that George Stone ("**Cracker Barrel Chronicles**") had made reference to owners of Greene Gables prior to Fred Stewart Greene and that there had to be some information somewhere. He then asked Town Clerk Norma Holliday who noted that all North Stonington records before 1807 are on file in Stonington. Since none of the dates of any transactions prior to "Hewitt-to-Seaport" are known, research in Stonington may be necessary.

In any case, Ellie will first focus her search for Greene Gables information within the North Stonington Town Hall and Town Historian Gladys Chase has agreed to help her.

d. Coop (Letters, Plan For Operation And Maintenance)

Coop reported that he had not had the opportunity to write any letters and that he continues to work on the *Plan for the Operation and Maintenance of Hewitt Farm*. It is his intent to distribute a DRAFT *Table Of Contents* for the document at the next meeting.

Nita stated that a letter should be sent to all abutters and those living on Hewitt Road to inform them about the Celebrate Fall event, and to make them aware that it is a special event to make townspeople aware that the property is open to the public. Coop will draft such a letter.

e. Ed (Greene Gables report)

Ed reported that Lou diCesare and Wayne Greene had not yet had an opportunity to inspect Greene Gables, but hoped they would do so within the next week.

f. Nita (NS Garden Club application, "Open Property Day," Friends of HF)

Nita reported that she had submitted the grant application to the North Stonington Garden Club and believes the club will act on it sometime during the month of October. If the grant is awarded, it will give the committee an opportunity to work on the design of the sign throughout the winter months.

Nita related her conversation with Cinda Spavins regarding the North Stonington Education Foundation grant that was requested by Marc Tardiff. Cinda said that Marc had approached the NSEF with an idea but had not provided any recent updates. The committee will request a meeting with Marc at his earliest convenience to determine if there is any way it can assist him.

The committee discussed what it knows about Marc's project and concluded that it will not be redundant with the NSGC grant project but, in fact, will complement it.

Nita next asked if the committee had reviewed Jack's paper entitled "Hewitt Farm Committee Input to the Dam Reconstruction Project." The group agreed that the paper should be discussed at the next meeting when Jack is present.

The committee next addressed a variety of items to be considered in planning the up-coming Celebrate Fall event. These items will be discussed during the **Celebrate Fall workshop on Monday, September 19th at 3:00 p.m. in the New Town Hall.**

3. Continue Hewitt Farm Work Plan Review starting with Task #19 and including new items. Materials were distributed at the 8/8/11 meeting.

There was not sufficient time to continue the review of the *Work Plan*. The review will continue at a future meeting.

4. Public Comments & Questions

First Selectman Nick Mullane joined the meeting near the end and asked the committee to produce a policy document for use by present and future Boards of Selectmen to guide them in future decisions about uses of Hewitt Farm. He asked that the document also contain **(a)** a timeline of events leading up to and following the purchase of the property, **(b)** the deed to the property, **(c)** a copy of Attorney General Richard Blumenthal's letter, **(d)** the results of the September 27, 2010 Special Town Meeting, specifically the "uses, rules, and recommendations" approved by a show of hands at that Town Meeting, and **(e)** a description of the long-term intentions for the use of the property. Presumably, "(e)" would be for the Hewitt Farm Committee to write and the Board of Selectmen to approve.

Coop stated that all of this would be included in the *Plan for the Operation and Maintenance of Hewitt Farm* that the committee is currently creating, but that the policy section described above could be completed separately and given to the Board of Selectmen in advance for their review and approval.

5. Identify any new items for 09/26/11 Agenda

- Invitation by Ellie to Marc Tardiff for the September 26th meeting so he may describe his project to the committee.
- Coop 's work on the policy document per First Selectman Mullane's request

The next meeting will be held on **Monday, September 26, 2011 at 3:00 p.m. in the New Town Hall Conference Room.**

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

Respectfully submitted, Richard B. Cooper