

Town of North Stonington, CT
HEWITT FARM COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Monday, February 6, 2012 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 Conference Room with members Ellie Banker, Dick (Coop) Cooper, Ed Harasimowitz and Nita Kincaid present.

1) Approve 1/23/12 Regular Meeting Minutes

Ed motioned to approve the 01/23/2012 Minutes and Coop seconded. The motion carried.

2) Complete "Vision of Hewitt Farm" and Mission Statement

Nita briefly described how the Vision and Mission statements had been developed and asked if there were any changes before voting to approve them. The group made a minor change to the *Vision Statement*, and edited and re-ordered the *Mission Statement*. A motion was made by Ellie and seconded by Nita to accept both the Vision and the Mission, as revised. The motion was unanimously approved.

3) Finalize and vote on Jack Brown's "Event Application Request"

The group reviewed the proposed "Event Application Request" form and discussed its purpose, how it would be used, and the appropriateness and necessity of the information that it elicits.

The group made a few changes to the document and Nita stated that she would communicate the changes back to Jack, and incorporate them into a revised version for adoption at the next meeting.

4) Mark Tardiff update on sign project

Mark Tardiff was not present. The group acknowledged that the "Welcome" sign to Hewitt Farm, which is the committee's responsibility, is a high priority. The sign that is Mark's project with his students may proceed at its own pace.

5) Review most current version of *Work Plan* to establish priorities

Ed stated that he would have the *Work Plan* ready for detailed review and discussion at the next meeting.

6) Determine status of:

6a) 2012 North Stonington Budget

Nita provided the group with an update on the budget information that she had submitted to the Board of Selectmen. She described how she had compiled it, where she had obtained the information, and noted that it would be discussed with the Board of Selectmen during the budget process. Nita noted that there had been quite a few expenses for the 1750 Farm House during the past year and that work on the lease renewals should move forward.

6b) Responses to requests from Jeff Hubbard and Reuben Spitz

Coop reported that he had sent a letter to Jeff Hubbard informing him of the committee's decision on his project and the reasons for their denial.

Nita read a letter to Reuben Spitz informing him of the committee's decision on his proposal and the reasons for that denial.

6c) Boy Scout Project

Coop reported that he had received an email from Tom Kane showing the "order form" he intends to use to raise money for the Scout Footbridge Project and informing the committee that he would be appearing before the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission on February 8, 2012. Ed and Coop will attend the meeting.

6d) Additional comments

Coop stated that for some time now there has been discussion about constructing a hiking trail from behind Greene Gables westward to Route 2 coming out as close as possible to the Mobil service station. This would allow hikers to pass through Hewitt Farm all the way from Wyassup Road back to the village by way of West Main Street with minimal exposure to Route 2 traffic.

Coop noted that because of good visibility and little foliage on the ground, this is the best time of year to lay out such a trail. He requested the committee's permission to blaze the trail with short strings hanging from low branches. This will enable the trail to be evaluated and changed as necessary throughout the spring and summer before it is more permanently constructed. It will also enable the Wheeler Board of Trustees (Gary Annino) to know where the trail would cross their property and what vegetation, if any, would have to be removed.

The group agreed that such a preliminary trail route could be marked at any time and Ed agreed to assist Coop in doing so.

Coop also reported that the DEEP had replied to his earlier email requesting the committee's use of "Lower Hewitt Pond" as the official name of the Hewitt Farm pond, and the ability of the public to use canoes and kayaks on the pond.

Brian Murphy of the Inland Fisheries Division, DEEP responded as follows:

After much discussion, Inland Fisheries staff prefer to keep that name that exists in the Angler's Guide which is Hewitt Pond (Lower Hewitt Pond). As for changing the all vessels prohibited regulation, the change to use boats without motors would not take place until the next fisheries regulation, most likely early 2013.

The committee directed Coop to notify Mr. Murphy that the Town of North Stonington would henceforth use the name "Lower Hewitt Pond" for this particular water body and that it would proceed with designing its informational sign and official map accordingly. The committee directed Coop to ask the DEEP if "All vessels prohibited" as shown in the 2011 *Angler's Guide* includes canoes and kayaks, and if so why this prohibition was imposed.

Nita then reported that she had received a phone call from John Bradshaw inquiring about whether he and a small group of other residents could do maple sap gathering on the Hewitt Farm near Greene Gables. It was suggested that Mr. Bradshaw be given the new Event/Project Application form to fill out and return to the committee.

7) Public Comments & Questions

None

8) Priorities for February 13, 2012 Regular Meeting Agenda

The group agreed that at the next **Regular Meeting** it would review the *Work Plan* being prepared by Ed. This meeting is scheduled for Monday, **February 13, 2012 at 3:00 p.m.** in the **New Town Hall Conference Room.**

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Richard B. Cooper