

**Town of North Stonington, CT**  
**HEWITT FARM COMMITTEE**

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**Monday, April 9, 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 3:04 p.m. in the New Town Hall Conference Room with members Ellie Banker, Jack Brown, Dick (Coop) Cooper, Ed Harasimowitz, and Nita Kincaid present.

1) Approve 03/26/12 Meeting Minutes

Ellie motioned and Ed seconded to approve the 03/26/12 Minutes. The motion carried.

2) Progress on the review of Greene Gables

Nita briefly described the walk-through of Greene Gables that was conducted on April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2012 for the benefit of member Jack Brown who had not been present. She reported that Selectmen Mullane and Donahue, consultant Tim York, NS Building Inspector Lou DiCesare and Mary Cooper had been present along with HFC members Ellie Banker, Dick (Coop) Cooper, Ed Harasimowitz, and herself.

All parts of the building had been visited. The condition of the interior and exterior had been discussed in detail with emphasis on environmental and structural problems. It was suggested at the end of the visit that the site should be secured to notify visitors to remain outside the immediate area. It was further noted at that time that an environmental analysis of the building and site would be the logical next step in reaching a decision about the future of Greene Gables.

After a brief discussion of possible next steps, the committee voted unanimously to forward a memo to the Board of Selectmen for their April 10<sup>th</sup> meeting to request that the BOS engage a qualified environmental safety firm to complete a thorough environmental analysis of the building and the site. The committee recognized that this would require funding/budget expense. However, the ability to determine a best course of action by the town with regard to the Greene Gables structure (whether that future action be demolition, repair or reconstruction) would be dependent on having complete environmental information.

3) Finalize plans for Ryder Road Entrance sign

Nita showed the latest version of the entrance sign design and stated that she would be meeting with Marc Tate to create a final version for submission to Fossil Industries, the sign manufacturer.

#### 4) Discuss leases on Hewitt Farm rental properties

Ed stated that he will produce a generic lease to be tailored for use with the 1750 Farm House and Cabin. He will have this lease available for review and discussion at the next meeting.

#### 5) Next steps on Friends of Hewitt Farm

Nita read the names of individuals who had contributed money to the *Hewitt Farm Fund* and who had otherwise expressed interest in participating in a "friends" organization.

It was suggested that a letter be mailed to these individuals thanking them, and that some activities be identified and undertaken that would enable them and possibly others to become actively involved with the farm.

#### 6) Member updates on projects

Nita and Coop reported on conversations with the two Eagle Scout candidates about their projects. Nita stated that Grant Leiper was considering construction of picnic tables. Coop noted that Tom Kane was actively involved in collecting funds for his Shunock River footbridges.

Nita also stated that she will speak to Karin Leiper to ask that she relocate her Gold Award project, a butterfly garden, from the Greene Gables area to elsewhere on Hewitt Farm. The reason for this is the concern about environmental problems in the immediate area near Greene Gables. Nita will meet with Karin to determine a suitable location.

Ellie stated that she had received communication from Michael Noonan indicating that it will not be possible to hold a music event at Hewitt Farm this late in the school year. Ellie expressed her hope that such an event would be possible next year and will pursue it again in the fall.

The group agreed that a walk of the property should be conducted some time in the near future to identify any needed work projects. First Nita will meet with First Selectman Mullane and Highway Foreman Holliday to request removal of debris in the Greene Gables area and the Tree-of-Heaven stumps and debris in the Ryder Road Entrance area.

The group discussed how to establish a fair and equitable system for the cutting of firewood by the public. Ellie suggested that an invitation could be included in the Summer issue of "North Stonington Today" that would create a list from which individuals could be selected by the committee in order or by lottery.

Jack voiced that such requests probably could be handled on an individual basis provided the amount and location of each cutting were agreed-to in advance.

No decision was made although the group agreed that for the time being Gary Annino could cut the marked trees at the Ryder Road Entrance. This will help the committee prepare the site to receive the new sign.

7) Public comments and questions

There were no members of the public in attendance.

8) Priorities for April 23, 2012 Agenda

- a) Progress on the disposition of Greene Gables
- b) Review generic lease for application to Hewitt Farm and discuss tenant responsibilities
- c) Update on scout projects
- e) Continue plans for Friends of Hewitt Farm organization
- f) System for granting permission to cut firewood
- g) Preparations for the committee's walk of the property

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Richard B. Cooper