

Town of North Stonington, CT
HEWITT FARM COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Monday, June 4, 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 3:10 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 05/21/12 Regular Meeting Minutes

Ellie asked that the minutes be corrected to show that it was Nita who had suggested a review of the Fred Stewart Greene photos. Jack motioned and Ellie seconded to approve the 5/21/12 Regular Meeting Minutes, as amended to reflect Ellie's correction. The motion carried.

2) Update on mailing to "Friends of Hewitt Farm"

Coop distributed two lists: one with the names of individuals he called "Prospective Friends" who had at some time in the past indicated that they might volunteer to help at Hewitt Farm if they were asked, and a second list of individuals he called "Confirmed Friends" who have either already done volunteer work at Hewitt Farm or indicated that they definitely would help if asked. Coop also distributed two draft letters, one to be mailed to the individuals on each of the two lists.

The committee reviewed the names on the lists to determine if they were in their proper category and a third list was created consisting of individuals who will be contacted by telephone or email.

Coop will make the committee's requested changes to the lists and letters, and mail the letters as soon as possible.

The group next discussed how individuals who receive these letters and those who are responding to the article in *North Stonington Today* would communicate with the committee. Ellie agreed to occasionally check the Town website and forward to Coop all emails that have been received from "Friends."

3) Progress on Ryder Road Entrance Sign and area

Nita reported that she had contacted the vendor's representative and that we would soon be receiving the "proof" of our sign for review and approval.

4) Update on Greene Gables information

Nita reported that she had met with Gladys Chase to view the Fred Stewart Greene photographs recently scanned and printed by the Historical Society. She noted that many of the pictures were of the Westerly area and she was able to find only a few of Greene Gables so far. She showed these photos to the group along with a postcard of Greene Gables provided by Ms. Chase.

5) Finish review of draft leases for Hewitt Farm rental properties

Nita distributed change pages to the draft leases that were reviewed at the last meeting. The committee then discussed the changes and agreed that the leases would not be finalized until after an inspection of the two rental buildings. Nita and Ed will represent the committee in the inspection team.

Nita and Ed will submit the draft leases and tenant notification letters to First Selectman Mullane for his review and possibly the review of the Board of Selectmen and Town Attorney, before sending letters to the tenants informing them of the inspection. Some additional changes may be made to the leases, depending on what is found during the inspection.

6) Member updates on projects & any additional items for group discussion

Nita reported that Karin Leiper has completed her Butterfly Garden and it is very attractive. Karin will install her own signs that provide information about the project.

The committee discussed who is responsible for mowing the area around the garden. If the 1750 Farm House tenant, Joe Bremer, will be doing it, we may need to provide suggestions as to mowing height and blowing the clippings away from the butterfly garden. Town employees or volunteers will be responsible for trimming along the stone wall in front of the garden and under the stone table.

The committee agreed to meet at Hewitt Farm next Monday at 3:00 p.m. for an inspection workshop at which time it will visit the Butterfly Garden, Ryder Road Entrance Sign area, and locations that require mowing. The group will begin by assembling at Greene Gables and then move across the dam to inspect the other areas. If time permits the group will also visit the well and pump house site.

Tom Kane has informed the group that he will probably be ready to install the two footbridges within two weeks. Nita has requested that he notify her what day that will occur so that she can notify the media.

As a result of recent discussions with Grant Leiper and his Assistant Scoutmaster, Coop has prepared a draft list of "Suggestions for Work Projects at Hewitt Farm." The list will be distributed to the committee for review and comment. When finalized, it would be made available to individuals or organizations looking to carry out a work project at Hewitt Farm.

Ellie reported that there are currently no plans for musical event until possibly next fall.

7) Public comments and questions

There were none.

8) Priorities for the June 18, 2012 Agenda

- a. Discuss Hewitt Farm signs for "Uses and Rules"
- b. Update on mailing to "Friends of Hewitt Farm"
- c. Progress on manufacture and installation of Ryder Road Entrance Sign
- d. Update on ongoing projects (Scout projects and others)
- e. Update on Greene Gables resolution - letter to Historical Society President and Vice-President dated June 8, 2012.
- f. Update of progress on Tenant Leases.
- g. Results of June 11, 2012 inspection workshop at Hewitt Farm

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Richard B. Cooper