

Town of North Stonington, CT
HEWITT FARM COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Monday, July 2, 2012 at 3:00 p.m
Wheeler High School Media Center

The meeting of the Hewitt Farm Committee was called to order by Nita Kincaid at 3:00 p.m. in the Wheeler High School Media Center with members Ellie Banker, Dick (Coop) Cooper and Nita Kincaid present.

1) Approve 06/18/12 Meeting Minutes

Ellie asked that the 06/18/12 minutes be amended to more accurately describe what she had said about the North Stonington Education Foundation's inquiry into using Hewitt Farm for an event. Nita will revise the minutes to reflect this change. Coop motioned and Ellie seconded to approve the minutes as amended. The motion carried.

Nita stated that she will inquire of the Selectmen's Office (Robin Roohr) whether we can wait to post our meeting minutes until after we have voted to approve them, usually at the next meeting. This will allow us to correct the draft minutes before we vote to approve them, thereby avoiding the need to re-post an amended version.

2) Finalize Hewitt Farm signs for "Uses & Rules"

The committee reviewed two draft versions of the "Uses & Rules" signs that will be erected in each of the parking areas, and selected the vertically oriented portrait design instead of the horizontally oriented landscape design. The information and arrangement of text and logo on the draft signs were approved with minor changes. Nita will contact Highway Foreman Steve Holliday to determine if three such signs made of metal can be purchased and erected by the Town.

3) Status of Ryder Road Entrance Sign and area

Nita stated that she has not yet received the next Ryder Road Entrance Sign proof from Fossil Industries, and that she had contacted the company to ask for a schedule of "next steps" and an estimation of the sign's delivery date.

4) Progress on tenant leases

Nita reported that she and Ed Harasimowitz had met with the selectmen on June 19, 2012 and reviewed with them the committee's recommended changes to the original

Mystic Seaport leases. Letters were also sent to the tenants of 9 Hewitt Road and 14 Hewitt Road informing them of the committee's intention to inspect each property. Both leases will be finalized and delivered to the tenants following these inspections.

The tenant of 14 Hewitt Road replied in the affirmative and First Selectman Mullane, Co-chair Nita Kincaid and Committee Member Ed Harasimowitz will perform the inspection on July 5, 2012 at 9:00 a.m.

Nita will ask First Selectman Mullane to inquire of Mystic Seaport the whereabouts of the tenants' security deposits, which are believed to have been given to Mystic Seaport by the tenants during the period of its ownership.

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

Nita has received the "Friends of Hewitt Farm List" from Coop and will update it to reflect the email and telephone responses she has received to date. She and Coop will meet to determine who will assume responsibility for maintaining the list and thanking responders.

6) Review *Suggestions for Work Projects at Hewitt Farm*

The group agreed to discuss the list of *Suggestions for Work Projects at Hewitt Farm* at the next meeting.

7) Update on Greene Gables resolution

Nita reported that she had received a letter from Charlie Smith in response to her inquiry as to what construction work he had performed on Greene Gables and when it was done.

Charlie responded that he had worked on the structure during the period of occupancy by the Little Red Horse Montessori School - October 1954 to June 1995 - and briefly described it.

Nita stated that she plans to meet with First Selectman Mullane to request that he contact the Board of Trustees of the Historical Society and inform them that we need to know if and when they wish to visit the interior of Greene Gables. They need to know that the Board of Selectmen and Hewitt Farm Committee are moving forward with a Greene Gables resolution.

8) Member updates on projects and any additional items for group discussion

Nita reported that she had received an email from Jim Cowen, principal investigator and author of *Botanical Survey of Hewitt Farm*, The Connecticut Botanical Society, April 19, 2010, requesting to meet with the committee to discuss the value of using meadow grass on the property instead of other mixes. Nita has been in contact with Jim to meet

him at the property to look at a few areas, including where he will lead a North Stonington Garden Club trail walk in August. She will also invite him to a committee meeting to discuss seeding and other botanical issues on Hewitt Farm.

Nita reported that she had received a letter from Marc Tardiff regarding his project. The letter states that he will not be pursuing his project until the fall.

Nita also reported that she had received a letter from Karin Leiper thanking the committee for the advice and help she received in designing and constructing her Girl Scout Gold Award butterfly garden. Karin erected her own signs describing the project and no others will be needed unless she requests one.

Coop and Nita reported that Tom Kane installed his Eagle Scout project footbridges over the Shunock River on June 23rd. Tom has some funds remaining and has proposed giving them to the Hewitt Farm Committee for use in future projects. Coop installed a temporary sign at the site, which briefly describes the project and thanks its participants and contributors. A permanent sign could be considered.

Nita distributed a draft letter, which she proposes be sent to community groups or organizations inviting them to use Hewitt Farm for events. A *Trail Map*, list of uses and rules for Hewitt Farm, and a blank *Event/Project Application* would accompany the letter. The group agreed to the wording and format of the letter.

The Committee then "re-visited" the *Event/Project Application* form and made minor changes to make it more suitable for this use.

9) Public comments and questions

There were none.

10) Priorities for the July 16, 2012 Agenda

- a) Review "Suggestions for Work Projects at Hewitt Farm"
- b) Update on letters to community groups
- c) Status of Ryder Road Entrance Sign
- d) Progress on Tenant Leases.
- e) Update on Greene Gables resolution.
- f) Member updates on projects and additional items for group discussion

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Richard B. Cooper