

Town of North Stonington, CT
HEWITT FARM COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Monday, July 16, 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 3:07 p.m. in the New Town Hall Conference Room with members Ellie Banker, Jack Brown, Dick (Coop) Cooper, Ed Harasimowitz and Nita Kincaid present.

Tom Kane and Jim Leonitis arrived at 3:20 p.m. to meet with the committee on Tom's Eagle Scout Project, the construction of two footbridges over the Shunock River.

1) Approve 07/02/12 Meeting Minutes

Nita motioned and Ellie seconded to approve the 07/02/12 Meeting Minutes. The motion carried.

2) Tom Kane's footbridge project

Tom Kane appeared before the committee to inform members that that he had completed his Eagle Scout Project, the construction of two footbridges across the Shunock River near the Bicentennial Trailhead. Tom submitted a letter to that effect, thanking the committee for its "cooperation, patience, and assistance in the planning, permitting, and construction of the bridges."

Tom's letter included a spreadsheet containing a list of donors, what is written on the plaques, and where these donor's plaques are located on the bridges. Tom stated that there are a number of planks on the bridges that are still available for "sale," and that if the committee does decide to "sell" any more of them, he and his stepfather will gladly install the plaques on them.

Tom further reported that there was a large plaque on one of the handrails, recognizing the 3 major business donors (United Building Supply, Home Depot and Majestic Jewelers) for their important contributions of building and plaque materials. Nita requested their addresses in order to send them a thank-you from the committee.

Tom also presented a check to the committee in the amount of eight hundred ten dollars and six cents (\$810.06). This represents money that remained after Tom acquired all materials necessary to build the bridges. He stated that the committee could use this money however it wished, as long as it benefits Hewitt Farm. The committee agreed that a worthy use might be to assist other projects similar to Tom's. The \$810.06 will be deposited into the Hewitt Farm bank account.

Coop suggested using some of the money to erect a permanent sign briefly describing the project and giving recognition to those responsible for it. With the committee's approval, Co-chairs Kincaid and Cooper then signed the "Completion Approval" section of Tom's *Eagle Scout Service Project Report*, and the committee complimented him on an outstanding job in service to the community.

A letter from the Hewitt Farm Committee will be written to Tom's Scoutmaster, John Bradshaw, informing him of the project's satisfactory completion and the committee's high praise of Tom's performance.

Coop will make a copy of Tom's *Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook* for the committee's files.

3) Review "Suggestions for Work Projects at Hewitt Farm"

Coop described the origin of the list "Suggestions for Work Projects at Hewitt Farm" that he had distributed to the committee at a previous meeting. He stated the purpose of the list is to provide organizations and individuals who inquire about volunteer work at Hewitt Farm with some idea of the types of things they could do.

The group reviewed the list item by item and identified projects suitable to be performed by a Boy Scout, Girl Scout or any individual, as well as certain projects best undertaken by a group of people or an entire organization. Nita will update the list for the committee's review at its next meeting.

4) Progress on tenant inspections and leases

Nita reported that she, Ed Harasimowitz and First Selectman Mullane had inspected the 1750 Farm House structure and found it to be in overall good condition. Discussion was held with the tenants regarding their use of some of the fireplaces and other aspects of the property that require attention.

The tenants were advised that a lease would be mailed to them for their approval and signature at some time in the near future.

Nita will write a report describing the conduct and results of the inspection.

Nita reported that the tenant of 3 Hewitt Road had not received the Selectman's letter requesting an inspection of the cabin, because she receives her mail at another address. She was however contacted by telephone and indicated that she would make herself available when the inspection is scheduled.

5) Update on Ryder Road Entrance area and "Uses & Rules " signs

Nita stated that she had received a proof and color sample of the Ryder Road Entrance sign from Fossil Industries. She "signed-off" on them and gave Fossil approval to proceed to manufacture.

Nita indicated she needs to submit the copy for the "Uses & Rules" signs to Highway Foreman Steve Holiday so that he can order the signs.

6) Status of Greene Gables resolution

Nita reported that she has not received a reply to her letter of June 8, 2012 to Frank Eppinger and Kevin McBride of the North Stonington Historical Society inviting members of the Board of Trustees to walk through Greene Gables. She will discuss with First Selectman Mullane the possibility of a follow-up to the letter.

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

Nita related that she had been contacted by Mark Perkins who is currently under contract to cut and maintain the hayfields. Mr. Perkins presented a check in the amount of five hundred dollars (\$500) as payment for the year 2012. The \$500 check will be deposited into the Town of North Stonington account, which holds other Hewitt Farm lease payments. Mr. Perkins also told Nita that he is willing to brush hog the undergrowth around the edges of the hayfields, but would like specific direction as to how much area should be cleared.

Nita suggested that at its next meeting the committee should begin to work on the wording for the 2013-forward hayfield contract, as this should go out for bid shortly.

Nita also reported that she had met with Jim Cowen regarding maintenance procedures for the meadows and management of invasive species. His advice at this point is to continue the process of eradicating the Tree-of-Heaven and Autumn Olive using mechanical and treatment procedures, but to do nothing with regard to cutting the meadows until late in the fall. He also offered to meet with the committee at the site to talk further about the Ryder Road entrance area, as well as the steps needed to create a true meadow, prior to any fall work project in that area.

8) Public comments and questions

There were none.

9) Priorities for the July 30, 2012 agenda

- a) Status of Ryder Road Entrance Sign and "Uses & Rules" signs
- b) Progress on tenant leases.
- c) Update on Greene Gables resolution.
- d) Review draft lists for "Suggested Work Projects at Hewitt Farm"
- e) Draft contract for use of the hayfields

The meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Richard B. Cooper