

Town of North Stonington, CT
HEWITT FARM COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Monday, August 13, 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 3:08 p.m. in the New Town Hall Conference Room with members Jack Brown, Dick (Coop) Cooper and Nita Kincaid present.

1) Approve 07/30/12 Meeting Minutes

Jack motioned and Coop seconded to approve the 7/30/12 Meeting Minutes. The motion carried.

2) Update on Greene Gables resolution

Nita distributed a copy of an email she sent this morning to Frank Eppinger, President of the North Stonington Historical Society. This was a confirmation of plans for the Historical Society's Board of Trustees to walk through Greene Gables on Tuesday, September 11th, and it requested that the arrival be changed from 6:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Nita suggested that we also invite a North Stonington Building Official to attend, as he could respond to current building code questions that may arise. The group agreed that was a good idea and Nita will communicate that request to Town Hall. She also encouraged all members of the committee to attend.

3) Report on tenant inspections and leases

Nita distributed a copy of "Report on July 5, 2012 Inspection of 14 Hewitt Farm," a report that she and committee member Ed Harasimowitz wrote following their inspection of the rental property. Nita stated that the report is now complete. It contains recommendations from the inspection team and includes what work should be performed to the structure and a few additional items to be included in the new lease.

The group next reviewed the "to do" list included in the report, decided that all recommendations were valid and necessary, and agreed that the committee and Town should proceed accordingly.

We are waiting a response from the cabin tenant to schedule that inspection.

4) Distribution of "Suggestions for Work Projects at Hewitt Farm"

Nita distributed two documents reflecting changes that had been made at previous meetings. The documents are "Suggestions for Work Projects at Hewitt Farm" and "Additional Potential Work Projects."

The first document lists projects that can be undertaken as school projects or by individuals wishing to do community service or earn merit badges and other service awards. Some of the projects may be more appropriate for an organized group to carry out. The list will be made available to anyone who requests it and may be mailed to local civic and private organizations.

The second document is for the committee's use in guiding individuals, groups or organizations in performing specific work projects at Hewitt Farm.

The committee agreed both lists were sufficiently complete to be circulated and put to use as intended.

5) Status of Ryder Road Entrance sign, entrance area, and "Uses & Rules" signs

Nita distributed an engineering drawing from Fossil Industries showing the recommended installation of the post that will support the new Ryder Road Entrance sign. She noted that the drawing shows the post only 15.5 inches in the ground and asked the group if it thought that was sufficient. Nita also described different ways of mounting the post in the ground to make it easily to remove in the event it needs to be relocated.

The group agreed that since the Highway Department crew would probably be erecting the sign, Highway Foreman Steve Holliday should determine how best to set it.

6) Report on the August 6th hayfield walk and list of next steps on hayfield contract

Because Coop was absent from the hayfield walk on August 6th, Jack and Nita described to him what the group saw and what was discussed. It was concluded however that the discussion should continue at the next meeting when others who attended the walk will be present.

Coop noted that granting permission to cut firewood could be linked to the clearing of borders by the hayfield contractor or could become a separate contract altogether. He voiced concern that clearing the borders all the way back to the stone walls will be a major and potentially expensive undertaking provided the job is done correctly and all debris is removed. Coop noted that the borders contain a significant amount of firewood. Given the current price of firewood, permission to harvest it could be used as a "bargaining chip" to get the borders cleared without giving up hayfield rent.

Jack suggested an outline of hayfield contract requirements would be helpful for our discussion at the next meeting.

7) Public comments and questions

There were none.

8) Priorities for the August 27, 2012 agenda

- a) Results of August 25th walk by the North Stonington Garden Club
- b) Installation of the Ryder Road Entrance sign
- c) Update on Greene Gables resolution.
- d) Inspection of the 9 Hewitt Road structure. Progress on leases and contracts
- e) Recap of the August 6th hayfield walk. Ideas for clearing hayfield borders.
- f) Status of "Uses & Rules" signs
- g) Member updates on projects and additional items for group discussion

The meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Richard B. Cooper