

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

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**Monday, August 27, 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 3:05 p.m. in the New Town Hall Conference Room with members Ellie Banker, Dick (Coop) Cooper and Nita Kincaid present. Juliet Leeming joined the meeting at 3:30 p.m.

1) Approve 08/13/12 Meeting Minutes

Nita motioned and Coop seconded to approve the 08/13/12 Meeting Minutes. The motion carried.

2) Completion of Ryder Road sign and entrance areas

Nita reported that the Ryder Road sign has been installed. Members of the Highway Department have set the post and the sign is now in place. Coop cleared the vegetation in the area around the sign and installed a Trail Map dispenser next to the sign.

Nita was able to use the sign to show those who participated in the North Stonington Garden Club walk where various features of Hewitt Farm are located and where the group would be walking. Nita thanked the club for contributing such a worthwhile addition to the property.

3) Report on the August 25th North Stonington Garden Club walk at the farm

Nita noted that the North Stonington Garden Club's walk on August 25th led by Jim Cowen was well attended and very successful. The group hiked up the western branch of the Bicentennial Trail to Tipping Rock and returned, stopping along the way to observe and discuss the many varieties of vegetation, wildlife and geological formations.

The group then walked to the Butterfly Garden for a picnic lunch.

4) Next steps on the hay contract

Nita stated that she will contact the Connecticut Department of Agriculture to determine if they can provide a sample lease which would help us in drafting the hay contract.

5) Update on Greene Gables resolution

Nita stated that she has not yet heard back from Frank Eppinger, President of the North Stonington Historical Society, confirming the society's preferred date and time to walk through Greene Gables.

Coop remarked that following the Greene Gables walk the committee must be sure to obtain sufficient information from those in attendance to be able to proceed with the next course of action. Coop suggested that at the next committee meeting, which will be held prior to the Greene Gables walk, the committee should discuss specifically what it hopes to learn from the attendees.

6) Next steps prior to mailing rental leases

Nita stated that she had prepared a draft report describing the August 8th inspection of the 3 Hewitt Road cabin that she and First Selectman Mullane had performed, with Ms. Prior present. She will distribute the report once Mr. Mullane has had an opportunity to review it.

7) Status of "Uses and Rules" signs

Nita stated that she had not yet given the copy for the "Uses and Rules" sign to Highway Foreman Steve Holliday.

8) Overview of the town's *Plan of Conservation and Development*

Juliet Leeming, land use planner for the Town of North Stonington, described the process whereby the town will be updating its *Plan of Conservation and Development*. She invited all members of the committee to keep informed of the POCD's progress.

Juliet noted there are 26 representatives from 14 different town organizations participating. Members Ed Harasimowitz and Nita Kincaid are the Hewitt Farm Committee representative and alternate representative respectively.

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

Nita distributed a draft version of a "Request for Donation to a Non-Profit Organization" that she had prepared and was planning to submit to the North Stonington Garden Club. The request is for an annual donation of \$100 or any amount that the club feels is appropriate. The money would be placed in the separate Hewitt Farm bank account to be used for improvements to the property.

The group briefly reviewed the wording of the request, suggested a few changes and then approved Nita's request to make the submission.

Ellie indicated that she wished to discuss the manner in which the committee might choose to give recognition to individuals and groups who make contributions or do

projects that help the Hewitt Farm. She noted that a precedent may have been set by the committee's recent decision to add a permanent sign near the new bridge, which will recognize Tom Kane's work. She suggested that the committee may need to develop a fair, appropriate way to recognize such efforts.

Ellie also reported that she recently met an individual at the Senior Center who has had experience setting up community garden in other towns. She has passed his information on to a North Stonington resident, who is very interested in pursuing establishing a community garden on the Hewitt Farm property. Ellie anticipates we may hear something about this in the future.

10) Public comments and questions

There were none.

11) Priorities for the September 10, 2012 agenda

- a) Update on Greene Gables resolution.
- b) Progress on leases and contracts
- c) Ideas for clearing hayfield borders.
- d) Status of "Uses & Rules" signs
- e) Member updates on projects and additional items for group discussion

The meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Richard B. Cooper