

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

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

**Monday, November 26, 2012 at 3:00 p.m.
New Town Hall Conference Room**

The Regular Meeting of the Hewitt Farm Committee followed a 2:00 p.m. Workshop, during which remaining steps and timeline for completion of the Hayfield RFP were outlined.

The Regular Meeting was called to order by Nita Kincaid at 3:00 p.m. in the New Town Hall Conference Room with members Ellie Banker, Jack Brown, Dick (Coop) Cooper, Ed Harasimowitz, Nita Kincaid and Eddie McGowan present. Nita then departed to participate in chimney inspections of the Hewitt Farm dwellings with Armstrong Chimney Specialists. Dick Cooper assumed the co-chair of the meeting. Nita returned to the meeting at 4:15 p.m.

1) Approve 11/01/12 Special Meeting Minutes

Eddie motioned and Ellie seconded to approve the 11/01/12 Special Meeting Minutes. The motion carried.

2) Determine 2013 meeting calendar

The group reviewed and circled selected dates for conducting Regular Meetings during the 2013 calendar year. Eddie motioned and Ed seconded to approve the 2013 dates. The motion carried.

3) Update on Hayfield RFP distribution & evaluation

The committee reviewed the procedure they intend to use for evaluating the hayfield proposals.

Mark Perkins arrived to deliver his written proposal and asked the committee about the timeline for the selection process. He was told the dates that the committee intends to meet to evaluate the proposals and was given a brief description of the process that the committee will be using.

4) Update on Greene Gables: Trees

Coop asked the group if it should proceed with having the evergreen trees at Greene Gables harvested by Hull Wood Products. Jack noted that he had been in touch with a DEEP forester who agreed to visit Hewitt Farm and report back on what could be done with regard to managing all of the farm's trees.

The group agreed that there was no urgency in removing the trees at Greene Gables, at least until after the Historical Society's report has been received. The group asked Jack to invite the forester to visit.

5) Member updates on projects & any additional items for discussion

Jack stated that he has completed clearing along the stonewall at the base of the Amphitheater and would now move on the area on the opposite side of the road.

Ed read aloud a letter from John Bradshaw asking if he could again tap the Maple trees at Greene Gables for purposes of making Maple syrup. Ellie suggested that he conduct education sessions at the site. The group agreed to allow John to tap the trees and requested that he be asked to conduct two such sessions this year.

The group agreed to defer discussion of a system for granting permission to cut firewood on Hewitt Farm until after the Hayfield Contract has been awarded.

Based on the information in Jim Cowen's 2010 *Botanical Survey* report, the committee agreed that the meadows should be mowed soon. Nita will ask Steve Holiday if the Highway Department will mow them.

Jack asked Coop if he would convert the temporary "Private Residence" signs posted in front of each residence to more attractive permanent signs. Coop said he would explore this.

Ed said he will update the committee's "Work Plan" and the list with suggestions for work that volunteers can perform.

Coop noted that he had spoken to Richard White about constructing a permanent enclosure to house a port-a-potty. Richard said we should contact him again in the spring and he will give us a proposal for constructing and servicing it

Ellie reported that the Education foundation was interested in coming up with a "Family Day" event. She suggested that a music day at the Hewitt Farm could fulfill a Hewitt Farm Committee goal and that of the Education Foundation. As a result, Ellie contacted Mike Noonan and they set up a date of June 1st between 1 and 4 p.m. Ellie offered to remain closely involved in the planning process for this and will assist them in submitting an *Event Application* to the committee.

The present meeting schedule calls for a **Special Meeting on December 5, 2012 at 2:00 p.m.** to review the hayfield proposals and determine if there are any questions that the committee wishes to ask the responders before it makes a selection. It was discussed whether the meeting should be conducted in **Executive Session**.

6) Priorities for the December 10, 2012 agenda

- a) Selection of the *Hayfield Response Proposal* for recommendation to the Board of Selectmen
- b) Maintenance of the meadows (Jim Cowen)
- c) Letters to community groups
- d) Ideas for guest lecturers or consultations
- e) Member updates on projects and additional items for group discussion

The meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Richard B. Cooper