

Town of North Stonington, CT
HEWITT FARM COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Monday, March 25, 2013 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, Jack Brown, Dick (Coop) Cooper, Ed Harasimowitz, and Nita Kincaid present. Ray Geer representing the Economic Development Commission arrived at the beginning of the meeting to address the group. Mary Ann Ricker representing the "Community Garden Association" arrived at 4:00 p.m.

1) Approve 03/11/2013 Meeting Minutes

Ed motioned and Jack seconded to approve the 03/11/2013 Meeting Minutes as corrected. The motion carried.

2) Economic Development for Public Officials

Ray Geer distributed a handout titled *Economic Development for Public Officials*. He stated that the Economic Development Commission had scheduled a forum to be conducted on May 30th by the MetroHartford Alliance for the purpose of educating town board and commission members on how to "build a stronger community."

Ray stated that all town groups are invited to participate. Nita suggested that any follow-up materials be sent to her and she will distribute them to committee members via email. We will decide at a later time whom from the committee will attend. The group thanked Ray for his attendance and for the invitation.

3) Community Conversation about Education

Nita informed the committee about an event being held at the Elementary School Multi-purpose room on April 27th from 8:30 to 12:30 a.m. It is designed to bring members of the community together to discuss ways to enhance our education system in North Stonington.

4) Eagle Scout Court of Honor

Grant Leiper who provided the picnic tables to Hewitt Farm will be awarded his Eagle Scout rank on April 14th at the Congregational Church in North Stonington. Nita will reply to his invitation stating that at least two members from the Hewitt Farm Committee will attend.

5) POCD Planning Forum

Committee members plan to attend the Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) Visioning Session scheduled for Saturday, April 6th from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Elementary School. Maps and photos of Hewitt Farm have been given to event coordinator Juliet Leeming for her use. We will wear nametags identifying us as members of the Hewitt Farm Committee.

6) Opening Day of Fishing

Nita described her conversation with Renee Anderson, point-of-contact for the Lions Club food trailer. The trailer will open for business at 7:00 a.m. on Opening Day of fishing, April 20th. Suggested sale items are coffee, hot chocolate, milk, juice, donuts or other pastries, and possibly breakfast sandwiches. Nita will continue to coordinate with Renee.

Coop and Ed will erect direction signs to Hewitt Farm. With Eddie's help, Nita will publish and distribute posters and flyers advertising the event. Nita will make a sandwich board sign to be located at the Route 2 entrance on the day of the event.

7) Recreation Commission Expo

Nita and Coop reported that they would attend the next meeting of the Recreation Commission in support of its May 18th Expo at the Elementary School. Committee members will continue to investigate different kinds of recreation activities that could be demonstrated at the farm that day.

8) Greene Gables Resolution

The group agreed that the next step in resolving the future of Greene Gables is a meeting between the Board of Selectmen, Historical Society representatives and the Hewitt Farm Committee. This meeting will be arranged at the convenience of the Board of Selectmen.

9) Timber Agreement

Ellie asked if the driveway to Greene Gables could be posted while Hull Forest Products is operating there, in order to avoid folks entering the work area. Coop will install a road-block with appropriate sign.

10) "CT Trails Day 2013"

Nita reminded the committee of its participation in "CT Trails Day 2013" scheduled for Saturday, June 1st. No action was taken.

11) Route 2 Entrance Sign

The group reviewed Jack's proposed design for an entrance sign to be located in the island at the intersection of Route 2 and Hewitt Road. The group agreed the design was appropriate and that Jack should proceed with obtaining the sign. The small evergreen tree currently growing in the island is blocking traffic sightlines and should be removed before the sign is installed. Nita will let First Selectman Mullane know about the planned change.

12) Community Gardens

Mary Ann Ricker arrived to update the committee on her work with the "Community Garden Association" and its plans to construct a community garden in the Greene Gables Meadow.

Coop reported that he had placed five traffic cones at the site for Mary Ann to mark where the garden would, if approved, be located.

Nita described the process whereby the Community Garden project could move forward. If the Hewitt Farm Committee approves the proposal, the Board of Selectmen will be notified and then the committee and Mary Ann will make a presentation to the selectmen requesting their final approval.

The group also discussed possible avenues for the raising, expenditure and accounting of funds that will be needed to operate the Community Garden. Any funds will need to be handled in conjunction with the Hewitt Farm Committee. No dollars will come from the town budget or the existing Hewitt Farm bank account. The group reviewed the proposal and suggested some changes and additions to Mary Ann.

The group scheduled a workshop for Monday, April 1, 2013 at 2:00 p.m. at the proposed Community Garden site (Greene Gables Meadow) at which time the Association's consultants, Dave Fairman and Patrick Kelly from the Eastern Connecticut Community Garden Association, may also be present to answer questions.

3) Public comments and Questions

No members of the public were present.

4) Priorities for April 8, 2013 agenda

- Update on items above.
- Determine next steps on 2012 incomplete projects
- Prioritize committee goals for 2013 and identify "lead" members

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Richard B. Cooper