

Town of North Stonington, CT
HEWITT FARM COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Monday, August 19, 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, Cindy Faucher, Ed Harasimowitz and Nita Kincaid present. Nancy Weissmuller, representing the North Stonington Grange, also attended part of the meeting. John Hines, Director of the Recreation Commission, appeared briefly before the committee.

Ellie motioned and Ed seconded to rearrange the agenda to allow Nancy Weissmuller to address the committee ahead of other business. The motion carried.

1) Request of the North Stonington Grange to install Bluebird houses on Hewitt Farm

Nancy Weissmuller, Secretary of the North Stonington Grange, presented a Project Application for the "Erection of a bluebird trail on the (Hewitt Farm) property." She described what is contained in the application, including how the birdhouses will be obtained, where and how they will be installed, and how they will be maintained. The application also contained a written description of the Bluebird species itself, instructions for the placement of the birdhouses, and plans for their construction.

Nancy stated that the Grange would be doing this as an Annual Community Service Project.

Ellie stated that she and Nancy had walked the Hewitt Farm property and found many locations where the birdhouses would be appropriate. Nancy said that initially some birdhouses would be mounted around all of the hayfields and that, if successful, other birdhouses could be added in future years. Grange members or representatives would perform all installation and maintenance.

The group discussed the proposed project and concluded that the Grange could plan and conduct the entire project on its own including the addition of more houses, but should report back to the committee at least once a year describing the success of the project. Nancy agreed this would be done. The group also requested that the birdhouse mounting posts be installed well back from the crop area so as not to interfere with harvesting the hay.

Nita motioned and Cindy seconded to "accept the proposal of the North Stonington Grange to install and maintain Bluebird houses on Hewitt Farm at locations to be

determined by the Grange, and to add more houses over the years without the need for further approval of the committee. As part of this motion, the Hewitt Farm Committee also expressed that was pleased to receive the application and is most appreciative of the Grange for undertaking this project." The motion carried unanimously.

2) Approve 08/05/2013 Meeting Minutes

Ellie motioned and Cindy seconded to approve the 08/05/2013 Meeting Minutes. The motion carried.

3) Input to the North Stonington Quarterly Publication and "North Stonington Today"

The group read Coop's proposed contribution to the Recreation Commission's quarterly publication "North Stonington Today" and agreed that it was acceptable for submission. John Hines, Director of the North Stonington Recreation Commission, appeared at the meeting for a few minutes and was told that this submission would be sent to him by email within the next 24 hours.

Nita distributed a write-up that she had prepared for inclusion in the new ICONS quarterly publication. She stated that the article content is deigned to get the message out that "we are open for business." The group was very pleased with the write-up and gave unanimous approval for submitting it to ICONS.

4) Community Garden Update

Ellie reported that she had attended the Community Garden Association's meeting the past Tuesday evening and that she conveyed our compliments on their success to date. Ellie noted that they were very appreciative of our comments. The group is planning a Fall Festival for gardeners, volunteers and friends at the Community Garden.

The Association asked Ellie if she thought it could install and maintain a granite bench at the garden throughout the winter. The Hewitt Farm Committee agreed that this is permissible.

Ellie stated that Community Garden Association members had appeared before the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agency to ask if they could install a portable pump to supply water from the Shunock River to the garden. Inland Wetlands indicated they saw no problem with the idea and requested a plan. This plan, when prepared, will be shared with the Hewitt Farm Committee

5) List of Hewitt Farm Volunteers and Friends

Nita distributed a draft revised format for compiling the list of "Hewitt Farm Volunteers and Friends." The group discussed the potential use of this list and concluded that all names could be put into categories depending upon their potential contribution.

Suggested categories were **(a)** PHYSICAL WORK, **(b)** FUND RAISING, **(c)** RESEARCH, and **(d)** COMMUNICATIONS, EVENTS AND PUBLICITY.

Nita and Coop will review this list before the next meeting to determine if such categorization would be beneficial.

6) Greene Gables resolution

Nita reported that the Board of Selectmen is working to schedule a meeting with the Historical Society and the Hewitt Farm Committee soon to discuss the resolution of Greene Gables

7) Member Updates on Projects

It was noted that throughout the recent drought Jack has been faithfully carrying water from the river to the many small trees that he planted on the West Slope and elsewhere on the farm. The committee expressed its gratitude to Jack for his continuous work.

Ellie asked if it is possible to color code the Trail maps so that the various named trails can be more easily identified. Coop stated that he would check with Marc Tate to have this done but that due to the cost of reproducing color maps it is not possible to obtain a large quantity of them. We currently distribute approximately 200 maps per year.

Coop also noted that it is difficult for people to determine where they are on the map when they take one from a dispenser. He suggested using an arrow stamp to show the "you are here" location of the dispenser on each of its maps. Cindy will look into obtaining such a stamp.

Coop also stated that he would paint the restaurant's gallery vent pipes a camouflage color if the Town would provide the paint. The group agreed this could be done. The group also agreed the metal posts delineating the gallery area behind the restaurant are sufficiently visible to achieve their objective.

8) Public comments and questions

None

9) Priorities for September 9, 2013 agenda

To be determined by the Co-chairs

The meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Richard B. Cooper