

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

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

**Monday, September 23, 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 3:10 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. Brooke Dalton and Diana Hunt representing the North Stonington Community Garden Association also attended a portion of the meeting.

Nita asked if the group would rearrange the agenda to allow Brooke and Diana to address it ahead of other business. The group agreed unanimously.

1) Plans for winterizing the Community Garden

Brooke Dalton and Diana Hunt representing the North Stonington Community Garden Association asked if the association could continue to work in the garden through the month of November. The association hopes to prepare the previously unused back plots of the garden to ready them for immediate use in the spring.

After a thorough explanation by Brooke and Diana, and discussion by the committee, it was agreed that the association could continue to work in the garden through November 30, 2013.

Brooke and Diana also stated that members from the association would be returning to the committee later in the fall to report on this first year's participation and work at the community garden.

2) Approve 09/09/2013 Meeting Minutes

Ed motioned and Coop seconded to approve the 09/09/2013 Meeting Minutes. The motion carried.

3) Greene Gables resolution

Nita recalled the portion of the Sept 16th BOS weekly meeting that was a dialogue between the Board of Selectmen, Historical Society and Hewitt Farm Committee about the resolution of Greene Gables. Most of the committee members had attended. After some discussion regarding what transpired at the meeting, Nita summed up that either

Brian Cooper or Gene Anderson would be asked by the Historical Society to inspect the Greene Gables structure at no cost to the Town. The goal of such an inspection would be to provide a report describing what needs to be done to the structure in order to secure and stabilize the building and at what cost.

At the conclusion of the September 16th joint discussion, the selectmen agreed that following receipt of the report it would be necessary to take the issue to a town meeting, before spending any money to secure or stabilize Greene Gables.

The Hewitt Farm Committee agreed it should do nothing until such time as the Cooper and/or Anderson report is received and the Board of Selectmen determine how to proceed.

4) Status of Volunteers List and Work Plan Updates

Nita asked if anyone had had an opportunity to use the new list of "Labor" Volunteers. She also stated that she would have the remaining four lists ready for review at the next meeting.

5) Firewood policy

Ed stated that he had checked regulations that the State of Connecticut uses to control its forestry harvesting and firewood programs. He noted that Hewitt Farm is more of a maintenance issue than a firewood harvesting operation. The group discussed several aspects of the issue and why a statement guiding the committee is needed. The group agreed that anyone working on Hewitt Farm regardless of what they are doing must be sufficiently trained or experienced.

Ed will draft a statement that best sums up a firewood policy as it relates to Hewitt Farm, and the committee will review it at a future meeting.

6) Status of the dam

Coop reported that town employees had cut brush at the dam on Saturday and that he believed it was in anticipation of the town issuing a Request for Proposals (RFP). Nita stated that she understood RFPs were indeed about ready to "go out."

7) Hewitt Farm Projects for this fall

The group discussed how and why to bring electric power to the area of The Green or Amphitheater. Members agreed that while The Green appears to be the most obvious location for a pavilion or bathroom facility, the Greene Gables area also would be a possible site. Electric power is already there, but not currently usable.

8) Annual rental property reviews

Nita reported that the committee should start thinking about the annual inspection of rental structures before the leases are due for renewal. Ed offered that a letter should first be sent to the tenants asking them if they intend to renew. This should be done at least 60 days before the leases expire.

The group also discussed whether there should be a change in the rental fees. All agreed such decision could be made only after the tenants have responded to the above letter.

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

Ellie stated that the Grange had received the Bluebird houses but had not yet installed them.

Cindy stated that she had found a 3/4-inch "arrow" stamp on the Internet that could be used to designate "You are here" on the trail maps. Coop said that was a very good size and Cindy said she would purchase the stamp. Coop added that he has a red ink pad for this use.

10) Public comments and questions

- none

11) Priorities for October 7, 2013 agenda

- To be determined by the Co-chairs

The meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Richard B. Cooper