

Town of North Stonington, CT
HEWITT FARM COMMITTEE

WORKSHOP MINUTES

Monday, December 02, 2013 at 3:00 p.m
New Town Hall Conference Room

The workshop session of the Hewitt Farm Committee began at 3:07 p.m. in the New Town Hall Conference Room with members Ellie Banker, Jack Brown, Dick (Coop) Cooper, Cindy Faucher and Nita Kincaid present. Mike Daniels and Ron Lewis joined the meeting at 4:00 p.m.

1) 11/18/2013 Meeting Minutes

Nita distributed the draft minutes for the 11/18/2013 meeting and indicated that these would not be voted upon until the committee's next regular meeting on December 16th.

2) Corncrib Discussion

First Selectman Mullane had sent a message to the committee inquiring about future plans for the corncrib building located near Greene Gables. The committee agreed that the building was worth saving for its character. It was suggested that steps should be taken, if possible, to stabilize it and prevent further weather damage. Patching the roof, cleaning out the refuse in the interior and fastening the door shut should be done. Coop indicated the door has been nailed shut.

The committee did not feel that future plans for the corncrib were necessarily tied to Greene Gables plans. They also mentioned that minor repairs might be doable by the committee with a few volunteers. Other than minimal repairs, other work on the building could wait until a plan was developed and approved.

3) Participation in PTO Holiday Extravaganza

The group briefly discussed the invitation to participate in this event. Ellie, Cindy and Nita offered that they would be willing to represent the Hewitt Farm, since they thought there would be young families present and this was an opportunity to acquaint such folks with the farm. They decided they would have a table with a project to make pinecone bird feeders with children. At the same time they would have Hewitt Farm information on hand.

3) Trail Sign Update

Coop reported that he was waiting to receive samples from the two companies that had been contacted. The group will then be able to see their work and reach a decision.

4) 2014 Harvest Festival

The committee discussed various activities they would like to see happen based on their experience with the October 2011 event that they had held at the farm. Among these were the Boy Scout campfire, the Fire Company with their water hoses and wagon rides with both tractor and horses. It was felt that we would have more people involved with the planning and work, plus more time to prepare.

5) Ron Lewis & Mike Daniels Hayfield Review

Ron Lewis and Mike Daniels arrived at 4 PM to review their first year of caring for and cutting the four Hewitt Farm Hayfields. Ron distributed a written report entitled "Hewitt Farm Hayfields Fall 2013 Report". He described the fertilization they had done and the number of cuttings on the various fields, as well as further brush hogging of the edges to maintain all the work they had completed in the spring.

For 2014 they hope to be able to get rid of the brush piles during the winter months. They also want to begin to implement the USDA-NRCS recommendations for handling the invasive plants on the field borders. Ron distributed a copy of the USDA-NRCS recommendations.

Ron and Mike indicated the hay cuttings were acceptable for a first year, considering the time it takes for lime to improve the soil and the amount of dry weather this summer. As they continue to lime and fertilize, they anticipate improved yield.

The committee expressed their appreciation of the excellent manner in which they are tending the fields.

The workshop adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Nita B. Kincaid