

Town of North Stonington, CT
HEWITT FARM COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Monday, November 4, 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 3:04 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.

Nita brought one of the new ***North Stonington's Hewitt Farm*** sign boards to the meeting, One sign will be used as an entry sign at the Route 2 entrance and the other will be located near the Hewitt Rd, entrance. The group thought the sign looked great and thanked Jack Brown for arranging to have two made.

1) Approve 10/21/2013 Meeting Minutes

Ed motioned and Cindy seconded to approve the 10/21/2013 Meeting Minutes as corrected. The motion carried.

2) Firewood Policy

Nita briefly described the history of the "Hewitt Farm Firewood Harvesting Policy" which had earlier been emailed to committee members. The group discussed the contents of the document and concluded that, with a few minor changes, the committee could use it as guidelines to approve and oversee the harvesting of trees by volunteer workers.

Nita will make the necessary changes including changing the title to "Hewitt Farm Firewood Harvesting Guidelines."

3) Submission to Quarterly Publication by ICONS

Nita stated that the Hewitt Farm Committee's contribution to the next ICONS quarterly report is due the end of the week. She asked the group what it should contain and several ideas were forthcoming. Nita volunteered to write the submission and the group agreed.

4) Meeting schedule for 2014

Nita showed the group a draft of next year's meeting schedule to be submitted to the Town Clerk before December 6th. The group agreed that the meeting dates Nita chose were appropriate and that the schedule should be submitted.

5) Update on Greene Gables

Nita stated that she had met with Historical Society President Frank Eppinger and Selectman Mark Donahue to discuss what was needed to move forward on a Greene Gables resolution. Nita reported that Mark offered to draft an evaluation approach, which would include pros and cons of actions that could be taken.

6) Rental properties

Nita reported that signed rental renewal forms have been received back from both the Cabin and Farm House tenants. Nita, Cindy and Ed will conduct the annual property inspections in the next few weeks.

7) Community Garden

Nita announced that she had received an email from the Community Garden Association requesting to meet with the committee to deliver their annual report. She will invite them to the November 18th meeting.

8) Letter from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Nita distributed a copy of a letter received from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service informing the public about two endangered species that may occur in our area: the *rufa red knot*, a shorebird, and the northern long-eared bat. These are both proposed to be listed under the Endangered Species Act.

Committee members read the letter individually. Several expressed their knowledge and told stories of their experiences with bats.

9) Trail Sign update

Coop briefly reviewed the email he had sent the group earlier in the week that described the progress made to date on contacting possible suppliers of the trail signs. He then distributed a list of trail sign design considerations he proposes using to improve the design of the new signs and make them uniform.

Coop stated that he had reviewed the Vermont Sleigh Company's website but did not feel their product suited our use. He also had contacted Finest Kind Signs in Pawcatuck and Wood Product Signs in Colorado. Nita asked that he be sure to contact Danforth Signs & Carving in Vancouver, WA, which he will do next. Coop stated that he would keep the group informed of his progress.

Jack noted that he has set aside a number of logs that can be used as signposts. The number and locations of these posts will be determined once the actual sign designs are final.

10) Public comments and questions

- None

11) Priorities for November 18, 2013 agenda

- To be determined by the co-chairs

The meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Richard B. Cooper