

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

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**Monday, January 28, 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 Jack Brown, Dick (Coop) Cooper, Ed Harasimowitz, and Nita Kincaid present. Mac and Pat Turner also attended the meeting, arriving at 3:30 p.m., to discuss Avalonia Land Conservancy's plans for participating in "Connecticut Trails Day 2013."

1) Approve 12/17/2012 Meeting Minutes

Ed motioned and Coop seconded to approve the 01/07/2012 Meeting Minutes as corrected. The motion carried.

2) 2013 Hewitt Farm Budget submission

Nita distributed a copy of the "DRAFT Hewitt Farm Committee Proposal for the Town of North Stonington Budget." The document briefly describes the financial history of the property since its purchase by the town in 2008. The draft also presents the income and expenses of the property for the fiscal year 2012/2013, including planned expenditures for the near future. Nita explained that the budget complies with the committee's goal, which is "The establishment of Hewitt Farm as a self-sustaining property."

The group then reviewed the proposal in detail and agreed that Nita should complete it and submit it to the Board of Selectmen.

3) Discuss possible participation in "Connecticut Trails Day 2013."

Mac and Pat Turner representing the Avalonia Land Conservancy described the Conservancy's plans to participate in "Connecticut Trails Day 2013," a statewide event promoted by the Connecticut Forest and Park Association that is scheduled for June 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2013. Mac and Pat suggested that if Hewitt Farm intends to conduct a hike, perhaps some coordination between other in-town participants on "start" times and publicity/advertising would be advantageous.

Nita stated that The Conservation Commission also intends to conduct a hike at Wyassup Lake. Coop noted that The North Stonington Land Alliance will probably also conduct a hike as they have in the past.

The group agreed that Hewitt Farm would participate in the event. Coop will fill out the application and Nita will submit it on-line. Coop will also investigate the possibility of advertising North Stonington's hikes in the spring and/or summer "North Stonington Today" publication. The committee agreed that the Hewitt Farm hike will use the Bicentennial Trail and will start at 1:00 p.m. to allow those involved in the other town hikes to join us.

4) Member updates on projects and any additional items for group discussion

Nita conveyed committee member Ellie Banker's status report on a possible June music/family picnic event at Hewitt Farm. The North Stonington Education Foundation is still considering holding this event and there is a possibility that Mike Costanza might accept the responsibility for organizing it. Ellie may have more information by the time of our next meeting.

There was some discussion over whether the committee had on previous occasions been clear about its position on whether "community gardens" should be allowed at Hewitt Farm.

Nita read from the Minutes of the committee's November 1, 2012 Regular Meeting in which such a proposal was discussed. The committee agreed that the Minutes indicated that the committee is receptive to such a project, but that there is a need for more information. It was suggested that anyone wishing further clarification or understanding about the subject should attend a committee meeting to discuss it further.

5) Public comments and Questions

No members of the public were present.

6) Priorities for February 11, 2013 agenda

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

The meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Richard B. Cooper