

Town of North Stonington, CT

HEWITT FARM COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Monday, April 8, 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, Ed Harasimowitz, Nita Kincaid and Eddie McGowan present. Mary Ann Ricker was present to discuss the proposed "Hewitt Farm Community Garden Association." Four supporters of the community garden were also present.

1) Approve 03/25/2013 Meeting Minutes

Ed motioned and Eddie seconded to approve the 03/25/2013 Meeting Minutes. The motion carried.

2) Community Gardens

Nita described the Community Garden project's application progress to date. She then verified that all members had the most recent version of the Application. Nita went through the Application page by page, allowing committee members the opportunity to discuss each item and to make suggestions for improvement.

Individual members were then given the opportunity to state their support or concern about the proposal. This resulted in a number of questions to the applicant and to committee members, which resulted in recommendations for revisions to the Application.

Nita distributed a draft basic Agreement that she had composed that would be signed by the applicant, Hewitt Farm Committee Co-chairs and Board of Selectmen. The committee and Mary Ann discussed the manner in which the community garden could be financed and it was agreed that this process should be described in the Agreement.

Jack asked if all potential gardeners have seen where the garden will be located. Mary Ann answered "no" and then stated that all those listed as potential participants were aware of its location and what would be required of them in order to use it.

The group agreed that the application package needed some changes before it can be presented to the Board of Selectmen. Nita agreed to make changes to include the information that the committee had requested.

Ellie motioned and Eddie seconded to approve the Application and accompanying material for constructing and operating a community garden on Hewitt Farm with changes as agreed-to on April 8, 2013 by the Hewitt Farm Committee. The motion was passed unanimously.

Nita will make certain that the Board of Selectmen receive the community garden application and related material prior to the April 16th BOS meeting and that a review of the proposal is on that meeting's agenda. Nita will present the background and reasons that the Hewitt Farm Committee is recommending approval of establishment of the Hewitt Farm Community Garden.

3) Eagle Scout Court of Honor

Nita and Eddie stated that they would attend Grant Leiper's Eagle Scout Court of Honor to be held on April 14th at the Congregational Church in North Stonington.

4) Opening Day of Fishing

Nita stated that Renee Anderson had communicated that the Lions Club is prepared to open the food trailer at Lower Hewitt Pond on Opening Day of fishing, April 20th. Coop and Ed will erect direction signs to Hewitt Farm. Nita will make a sandwich board sign and erect it at the Route 2 entrance on the day before the event.

5) Recreation Commission Expo

Nita reminded the committee about participating in the REC EXPO on May 18th. Coop will staff a Hewitt Farm information table at the Elementary School. The committee did not reach a decision on what activities it could sponsor at the farm that day.

6) Public comments and Questions

There were no other public comments.

7) Priorities for April 22, 2013 agenda

- Update on above items.
- Possible update by Lewis & Daniels on hayfield progress.
- Update on Greene Gables resolution.
- Update on plans for "CT Trails Day 2013."
- Update on tree removal by Hull
- Butterfly Garden plans
- Determine next steps on 2012 incomplete projects
- Prioritize committee goals for 2013 and identify "lead" members
- Application NSGC Discretionary Funds.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Richard B. Cooper