

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

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**Monday, December 16, 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 3:14 p.m. in the New Town Hall Conference Room with members Ellie Banker, Jack Brown, Dick (Coop) Cooper, Cindy Faucher and Nita Kincaid present.

1) Approve 11/18/2013 Meeting Minutes and 12/02/2013 Workshop Minutes

Ellie motioned and Coop seconded to approve the 11/18/2013 Meeting Minutes. The motion carried.

Nita distributed a copy of the 12/02/2013 Workshop Minutes. Although minutes are not required for a workshop, Nita wanted to provide a record of the discussion of future ideas for the Corn crib, new trail signs and the 2014 Harvest Festival. In addition Ron Lewis and Mike Daniels provided a review of their 2013 work on the hayfields and their 2014 plans. Ellie motioned and Cindy seconded to approve the 12/02/2013 Workshop Minutes. The motion carried.

2) Planning for New Trail Signs

Coop reported that he was waiting to receive the second of two sample signs that the vendor candidates were providing for the committee to evaluate. He expects both signs to be available for examination at the next meeting.

3) PTO Holiday Extravaganza

Cindy, Ellie and Nita described the PTO Holiday Extravaganza event that they had attended as representatives of the Hewitt Farm Committee. They had set up a table, which enabled children to make tree ornaments for feeding woodland birds, and in the process, enabled more families to learn about Hewitt Farm.

All three committee members concluded that the event was very successful and that they had a lot of fun participating.

4) Rental Property Lease Renewals

Nita reported that the leases for the two rental properties had been signed by the First Selectman and mailed to the tenants. We are awaiting their return by January 1, 2014.

5) 2014 Harvest Festival

Nita will check with various organizations, and committee members will do their own investigating to determine the best date to hold the *2014 Harvest Festival*. The committee is striving to make sure this event does not conflict with any other in-town event. Best candidate dates at this time are **September 20th, 27th, and October 4th**.

6) Greene Gables

Nita reported that the Historical Society's committee, which is working on the Greene Gables resolution, has been given an outline, which suggests the type of information needed before a Town Meeting can be conducted on Greene Gables. Selectman Mark Donahue provided the outline.

7) Hewitt Dam

First Selectman Nick Mullane has indicated to Nita that the new Board of Finance will shortly be discussing various approaches for financing large town projects, including the reconstruction of Hewitt Dam.

8) Year End Report and 2014 Goals

Nita distributed a list describing the goals the committee had set for 2013. The committee then identified those that were finished versus those that needed to be modified and/or carried forward for completion in 2014.

- A plan for the Greene Gables building and the commencement of the reconstruction of the Hewitt Dam remain priorities for the committee, but both are currently awaiting decisions by groups other than the committee.
- The Hewitt Farm will participate in CT Trails Day in June, possibly using the Loop Trail. Hosting another fishing event should wait until after the dam repairs.
- The committee will help organize and participate in a Fall Harvest Festival at the farm in cooperation with the North Stonington Garden Club and the Community Garden Association.
- Installing the two new Hewitt Farm entry signs is a priority.
- Continuing invasive removal and property maintenance and improvement remains a priority. Caring for stone gateposts and moving an offered outhouse to the farm are possible projects.
- Increased communication with potential volunteers and residents is an ongoing important goal. An Earth Day spring cleanup is a suggested idea. Building an independent website for Hewitt Farm also remains a goal.

Nita will work on a draft *2013 Annual Report* to share with the Board of Selectmen in January. The presentation will cover work completed in 2013 and work planned for 2014. The committee will review a draft of the report before it is presented.

9) Public comments and questions

- None

10) Priorities for January 27, 2014 agenda

- To be determined by the co-chairs

The meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Richard B. Cooper