

Town of North Stonington, CT
HEWITT FARM COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Monday, November 3, 2014 at 3:00 p.m
New Town Hall Conference Room

The meeting of the Hewitt Farm Committee was called to order by Co-chair Nita Kincaid at 3:04 p.m. in the New Town Hall Conference Room with members Ellie Banker, Dick (Coop) Cooper, Cindy Faucher, Ed Harasimowitz and Nita Kincaid present. Mary Ann and Bill Ricker representing the Community Garden Association, Eagle Scout Candidate Roy Amaral, and Brian Banker were also present. Hewitt Farm Committee member Jack Brown arrived to the meeting at 3:55 p.m.

1) Approve 10/20/2014 Meeting Minutes

Cindy motioned and Coop seconded to approve the 10/20/2014 Meeting Minutes. The motion carried.

2) Review of Roy Amaral's Eagle Scout Project

Eagle Scout Candidate Roy Amaral presented his proposed project to construct a combination storage shed and toilet facility at the Community Garden site. The structure would be similar to one depicted on "The Family Handyman" Internet site. He submitted the website pictures and instructions, along with a list of materials and their estimated cost to the committee for review. He also provided the committee with his completed *Event/Project Application* form and a copy of his *Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook* and *Eagle Scout Service Project Proposal*. Roy stated that he was appearing before the committee to obtain approval for his project and a signature from the committee as "beneficiary" of his project.

Ellie emphasized it was very important that the structure appear in keeping with the Hewitt Farm setting. Roy added that he would modify the plan to achieve this. Following additional questions and discussion with the applicant, the committee concluded that a number of changes to the existing plan would be required. Roy was asked to re-work his proposal and return at a later meeting with a final version.

Bill Ricker, representing the Community Garden Association for whose use the structure is intended, offered to assist Roy in creating a design that fulfills the committee's wishes and that is adequately documented to ensure compliance. The committee noted that

Roy might have to return to the town's Building Official and/or Zoning Enforcement Officer to obtain new approvals.

Nita next read the statement in the Project Proposal for which Roy was seeking committee approval and a signature. The group agreed that while Roy's written plans need revisions, the statement can be signed, provided Roy obtains approval from the committee before actual construction on the shed is begun. The committee directed its co-chairs to sign the statement presented by Roy and they did so. Roy agreed to attend the committee's next meeting on November 17, 2014 with his final design.

The group also agreed that an 8'x10' base pad of gravel or crushed stone could be put into place at this time in anticipation of subsequent approval. The location of a shed had had previously been approved by the committee.

3) Community Garden Fencing Project

Mary Ann Ricker, representing the North Stonington Community Garden Association, stated that the association's request to the Hewitt Farm Committee to sign an application for Rotary grant money had not been clearly communicated, due to time pressures. The deadline for the grant application was October 30, 2014 and the Hewitt Farm Committee had signed it prior to that date, based on Mary Ann's providing more details about the proposed project at this November 3rd meeting.

Mary Ann described the Fencing Project, which would use any grant money received from the Rotary. She explained that present fencing is two years into its three-year lifespan and does have some problems. She reviewed the history of the present fencing and described what the new fencing will look like and how it will be installed. She had previously provided the committee with a vendor's estimate as an example, to justify the amount of the grant request. She noted that the Community Garden Association is still exploring fence materials and vendors, as well as how the installation would be done. She does not foresee replacing the existing fence until 2016, but wants to have a plan and funds in place.

Bill Ricker questioned whether the Hewitt Farm Committee needs to be involved with all the expenditures of the Community Garden Association. He asked whether some items are small enough that they might not need HFC sign-off. Nita responded that any money being received through the town as tax deductible and/or spent through a town account is the responsibility of the Hewitt Farm Committee (a town-appointed committee) and must be approved and documented by the Committee.

Bill suggested that the Community Garden Association might be able to secure non-deductible funds on it's own or members might do the fencing installation themselves.

He noted that some items are bought at tag sales or just contributed by members. The committee agreed that seemed acceptable.

4) Status of Dam Reconstruction Project

Nita presented a brief update on construction progress at the dam over the past two weeks.

5) Green Gables Reminder

Nita stated that it was probably an appropriate time to forward the letter to North Stonington Historical Society President Frank Eppinger, requesting status of their Greene Gables recommendations and the committee agreed that it should be sent.

6) A Possible Additional Eagle Scout Project

Nita advised the group that John Bradshaw had informed her that Eagle Scout Candidate Stephen Foster would probably attend a meeting soon to discuss another possible scout project at Hewitt Farm.

7) Offer of Assistance by a Student with an Architectural Background

Cindy reported that a student with architectural knowledge had contacted her to offer help to a worthy Hewitt Farm project. The committee suggested Cindy might reply to the individual and invite her to meet with us at The Cabin to discuss ideas for that structure.

8) Garden Club Grant

Nita reported that the North Stonington Garden Club had awarded the Hewitt Farm \$530 to be put toward the purchase of permanent Trail Signs to replace many of the temporary ones that are currently in place. The Hewitt Farm Committee already has installed the permanent Trail Signs that it purchased with money from the Garden Club last year. The Committee briefly discussed changing the color of sign letters on these future signs, but no decision was reached.

Coop will compose a "thank you" letter to the Garden Club for review by the committee.

9) Trail Sign Replacement Project

Coop reported that Christopher Annino installed ten Cedar Trail signposts provided by Jack during the past week. Coop will compose a "thank you" letter to Christopher for review by the committee.

10) Mischief - or More?

Jack reported that an undisclosed number of 8' Locust posts that he was storing behind Greene Gables have gone missing.

11) Revised Project List

Nita distributed the most updated version of "Tasks Identified for Volunteers". Coop will now take responsibility for keeping the total project list regularly updated with any new projects. He will also produce a specific list (from the all-inclusive version) that will include only tasks suitable as Eagle Scout Projects and give the list to Scout Unit Advancement Coordinator John Bradshaw for his use.

Jack suggested that a task to make the Route 2 Entrance more presentable be added to the Project List. This was done.

12) Other Matters

Nita reminded the group that it was time to notify the 1750 Farm House tenants of their required lease renewal timeframe and to set the annual inspection date. She requested that "lease renewals" be added to the "Task List".

The group briefly talked with Brian Banker about his interest in the Hewitt Farm Committee.

13) Priorities for November 17, 2014 Agenda

- Review and possible approval of Roy Amaral's Eagle Scout Project
- Project discussion with Eagle Scout Candidate Stephen Foster
- Update on the Dam Reconstruction Project
- Green Gables Reminder
- Cabin Visit
- Others to be determined by the co-chairs

Respectfully submitted, Richard B. Cooper