

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

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**Monday, November 17, 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 3:05 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. Mary Ann and Bill Ricker representing the Community Garden Association, Eagle Scout Candidate Roy Amaral, Eagle Scout Candidate Steven Foster, and Brian Banker were also present.

1) Approve 11/03/2014 Meeting Minutes

Ed motioned and Cindy seconded to approve the 11/03/2014 Meeting Minutes as corrected. The motion carried.

2) Review of Roy Amaral's Eagle Scout Project

Eagle Scout Candidate Roy Amaral presented a copy of his plan, which shows a combination toilet facility and storage shed that he would like to construct at the Community Garden site. He stated that this plan provides a better description of "what was going to be" than the one he had shown the committee at the previous meeting.

Roy guided committee members through his plan page by page, explaining the design and answering member's questions. Ed asked for particulars on the design of windows and the structure's foundation. He was told by Bill Ricker, who had helped Roy create the plan, that a meeting was scheduled with the North Stonington Building Official to discuss the foundation. Following that, a final design will be forthcoming.

Roy continued by describing the design of the interior partition, door, window, roof materials and siding. He also addressed the structure's illumination and ventilation.

Nita questioned the location and orientation of the structure and was told that it was the same as had previously been approved by the committee.

Ellie asked Roy if he considered orientation of the siding material in estimating its cost. Texture 111 can only be installed in one direction.

Nita departed the meeting at 3:35. Coop conducted the meeting until her return. Nita returned to the meeting at 3:45 and resumed as Co-chair.

Roy next showed the proposed floor plan for the structure, and the group discussed the size and shape of the space required for the toilet.

Bill Ricker asked if Roy could use the corncrib for temporary storage while the shed is being built. After a brief discussion, the committee concluded that the corncrib would not support someone walking inside it. It was suggested that materials probably should be stored off-site, if possible.

Roy stated that although a Percolation Test still must be done, he is prepared to move forward with fund raising and construction work. The committee agreed and unanimously approved his plan, acknowledging that issues are still outstanding. Roy agreed to keep the committee informed of any changes. Committee members thanked and complimented him on an excellent plan and presentation.

### 3) Review of Steven Foster's Eagle Scout Project

Eagle Scout Candidate Steven Foster approached the committee stating that he would like to construct and install a number of park benches in fulfillment of his Eagle Scout Service Project. He stated he was attending to ask the committee a number of questions regarding what types of benches he should build and where they should be located. Steven noted that he had worked with the two other Eagle Scouts on their projects, which produced Hewitt Farm's picnic benches and footbridges.

Coop asked about the scope and size of most Eagle Scout Service Projects in an attempt to determine how many benches would be needed to qualify as an "Eagle project." Steven stated that he would make his proposal to the Scout Council and that the council would decide if his project was a worthy endeavor.

The group engaged in a detailed discussion of design criteria and characteristics that Steven should consider for his benches. Members also voiced individual opinions on where the benches might be located and whether or not they all need to be the same. Coop provided Steven with a *Trail Map* marked to show some of the possible locations for benches. He offered to visit the farm with Steven to show him these locations. Steven said that he would consider what the committee had told him and would return at a later date with his proposal.

### 4) Consideration of a New Alternate Member

Nita introduced Brian Banker to the committee. She stated that Brian is interested in joining the committee to fill the vacant Alternate Member position. After a brief discussion, the group agreed unanimously to send a request to the Board of Selectmen to appoint Brian Banker to the committee.

5) Invitation to Christmas Event

Nita reported that the PTO had extended an invitation for the Hewitt Farm Committee to participate in its annual Christmas activity to be held Friday December 12th in the Elementary School. Nita, Cindy and Ellie all agreed to attend as they did last year. Nita encouraged the male members of the committee also to attend.

6) Approval of 2015 Meeting Schedule

Nita distributed copies of the draft *2015 Meeting Schedule* for the Hewitt Farm Committee. After brief review and discussion, the group approved it unanimously. It was signed by the co-chairs and will be submitted to the Town Clerk.

7) 1750 Farm House Lease

Nita reported that the 2015 notice about lease renewal for the 1750 Farm House has been sent to its tenants.

8) Contribution to "North Stonington Today - Winter"

Nita distributed copies of the Hewitt Farm article that was submitted to the Recreation Department for publication in the winter issue of "North Stonington Today."

9) Hewitt Farm History

Cindy showed old photographs of the Hewitt family enjoying time around the pond, farm house and cabin. Many of the photos showed the structures in the same design as they appear today only in pristine condition. Vegetation, of course, was not as overgrown and the pond was much more receptive to boating and swimming than it is today. Cindy had a few good stories for committee members to appreciate.

10) Priorities for December 1, 2014 Agenda

- Meet at The Cabin for a 2:30 p.m. workshop prior to the regular meeting
- Others to be determined by the co-chairs

Respectfully submitted, Richard B. Cooper