

Town of North Stonington, CT
HEWITT FARM COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Monday, August 24, 2015 at 3:00 p.m.
New Town Hal 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 Brian Banker, Ellie Banker, Jack Brown, Dick (Coop) Cooper, Ed Harasimowitz and Nita Kincaid present.

1) Approve 08/10/2015 Meeting Minutes

Ed motioned and Jack seconded to approve the 08/10/2015 Meeting Minutes as amended. The motion carried.

2) Member Updates and Harvest Festival Preparation

Nita indicated that the Southeastern CT Water Authority has modified its plans for work on the water tanks. She also noted that the town should be receiving an increase in rent income from them, based on an every-5-year change in rates,

Nita reported that she had received three bat houses constructed and donated to Hewitt Farm by the North Stonington Community Grange. The committee will discuss placement of these houses at a future meeting.

Nita told the committee that she had attended Eagle Scout Roy Amaral's induction ceremony as a representative of the committee. She was invited to speak about Roy's Eagle Scout project at the farm, which was the building of a very nice garden shed. She had described how pleased the Hewitt Farm Committee and Community Garden Association are with Roy's result.

Ed asked Nita what funds are available to the committee for expenses and Nita described the sources of funds for the Hewitt Farm.

Ellie complimented Jack on the work he had done at the Canoe & Kayak Launch Area to make it more useful for boaters. She also noted that bricks were piled in the center of The Green and questioned their origin and purpose.

Jack reported that the several small bushes that dot The Green had been moved and that a large stump that remains will also be removed.

Coop distributed a map showing two trails that have recently been cleared and marked with blazes to make them usable for the Harvest Festival. Coop asked the group to be thinking of a name for the trails and for the point of land at the north end of the pond that could be used as a picnic grove. It was suggested that this might be something to ask the public during the Harvest Festival.

Nita reported that the selectmen had received a response to their request for bids for the two old wooden bridges. The only bid was from a responder that asked that the bridges be donated for use by the New London County 4-H camp and that they would remove them at no cost to the town. Following the meeting, Ed and Coop will remove from the bridges the logs that had been previously used to mark the Route 2 Parking Area boundary.

Nita reported that the CT Federation of Garden Clubs and the North Stonington Garden Club will be donating a #15-size Red Oak tree from Prides Corner Farms for planting at the Community Garden area during the Harvest Festival.

Ed reported that he will manually cut the "Tree of Heaven slope" and Brian will brush-hog both the Farm House and Greene Gables meadows sometime before the 10th of September.

The committee identified four tasks for which they need to request help from the Highway Department:

Priority I – Set the posts for the Route 2 Entrance Sign

Priority II - Cut any large overhanging tree limbs and the leaning tree in the Greene Gables Meadow area.

Priority III - Remove or replace the "danger" signs on the dam and the plywood sheets covering the wooden bridge.

Priority IV - Remove the stump pile at the "handicapped parking" area and the debris piles in the Community Garden area.

Harvest Festival posters have been given to Garden Club members for them to distribute. Nita will email a file of the poster to committee members for their use.

Ellie and Coop will make a list of items to have available at the committee's table during the Harvest Festival.

The group agreed to meet again on Tuesday, August 8th at 2:00 p.m. for a Harvest Festival planning workshop. Location of the meeting will be at Town Hall.

3) Status of Restaurant Parking Request

Nita informed the group that she and the First Selectman will be marking possible additional parking area in response to Buon Appetito's request for expanded space. The space will be within the lease boundaries, but will need further approvals. This will be discussed with the owner.

4) Request for Grant Money from the Peter Grayson Letz Fund

Nita distributed information about the requirements for making a grant request to the Peter Grayson Letz Fund for Animals and the Environment. A group of representatives from five town organizations will meet to determine how best to respond. The hope is to obtain money for use on Hewitt Farm.

5) Priorities for September 14, 2015 Agenda

- Update on plans for the Harvest Festival
- Progress of tasks being performed by the Highway Department
- Status of the restaurant parking request
- Progress of the Letz Fund grant request

Respectfully submitted, Richard B. Cooper