

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

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

**Monday, November 2, 2015 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 3:07 p.m. in the New Town Hall Conference Room with members Brian Banker, Ellie Banker, Jack Brown, Dick (Coop) Cooper, Nita Kincaid and Ed Harasimowitz present.

1) Approve 10/19/2015 Meeting Minutes

Ellie motioned and Jack seconded to approve the 10/19/2015 Meeting Minutes. The motion carried.

2) Installation of Bat Houses

Coop distributed a list of "Recommendations for the Placement of Bat Houses" that he compiled based on a discussion he had with a DEEP Ranger at Goodwin State Forest. The list is intended to provide guidance to the committee on where to locate the three bat houses that North Stonington Community Grange #138 donated to Hewitt Farm.

After reviewing and discussing the list, the group arrived at several ideas on how and where to erect the houses. Ellie noted that if a bat house is located near the Community Garden, the gardeners may object to the animals' presence. Nita suggested delimiting sections of a tree on the edge of the pond to mount houses.

The issue will be discussed further after members have had an opportunity to visit some of the possible sites. It was mentioned that the houses would likely be mounted in the spring, before the bats return. In the meantime, Jack and Coop will look for poles at least 18' long to mount the houses.

3) Parking Area for Horse Trailers

Nita reported that she had spoken to one of the women who frequently brings a horse trailer to Hewitt Farm and has advised her that trailers shouldn't be parked on the hay field along Cemetery Road. Nita will meet with the woman at Hewitt Farm to investigate the possibility of parking in the Welcome Sign Parking Area or on The Green.

Ellie expressed concern for vehicles parking on The Green, particularly when the lawn is saturated. Ed noted that the Welcome Sign Parking Area could be expanded as much as is needed, but that the sloped entry might present a problem when maneuvering a large horse trailer.

4) Rental Renewal Notice and Inspection of the 1750 Farm House

The group acknowledged that renewal of the Farm House lease is coming due within 60 days and that the group should be prepared to discuss any changes to the lease that should be considered. The subject will be addressed at the next meeting.

5) Names of Hewitt Farm Features and Locations

Coop distributed a copy of “Hewitt Farm Features: Names and Terminology” that he updated based on committee discussions and changes on the farm over the past year. The committee had noticed that members were having difficulty communicating among themselves about certain features and locations, and that an update to the list was warranted.

Coop read the list aloud item by item and made changes to it at the committee's direction. It will be edited and redistributed.

6) Member Updates on Projects & Additional Items for Discussion

Ed stated that he had been told that some people who read the “NORTH STONINGTON'S HEWITT FARM” entrance sign do not realize the farm is open to the public. He suggested hanging a small “OPEN TO THE PUBLIC” sign beneath it. The group agreed to “ask around” to determine if this was a genuine problem. Members acknowledged the current sign as it appears could also be indicating a residential development, commercial business, private facility, or similar.

Nita stated that in the letter she sent to the Harvest Festival exhibitors thanking them for participating, she included a standing invitation to them and all community groups to consider Hewitt Farm for their own use. She noted that all they need to do is complete an *Event Application Form* available from the committee.

The group discussed how to go about filling the Alternate Member position created vacated by Cindy Faucher. There was general agreement that some of the difficulty in recruiting members may be the inability of people to attend meetings at 3:00 p.m. on a week day. The group concluded that “meeting time” should not hamper the selection of committee membership and they would consider changing the time and/or day if a good candidate is found.

Ellie stated that she desires to resign her position as full Member of the committee to become an Alternate Member. Brian could then be appointed to her Member seat. Appointments will be discussed with the First Selectman.

Nita distributed a copy of a letter she had sent to Mr. Joseph Wessell at Electric Boat regarding the EB Employees' Day of Caring Program and the possibility that the Hewitt Farm might have eligible projects. The group unanimously expressed its gratitude to the

Co-chair for composing a letter that very accurately and sincerely conveys the committee's hopes for the Day of Caring Program's involvement.

7) Priorities for November 16, 2015

- Installation of bat houses
- Parking area for horse trailers
- Rental Renewal Notice

Respectfully submitted, Richard B. Cooper