

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

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**Monday, December 21, 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 3:05 p.m. in the New Town Hall Conference Room with members Ellie Banker, Jack Brown, Dick (Coop) Cooper, Nita Kincaid and Ed Harasimowitz present.

1) Approve 12/07/2015 Meeting Minutes

Ed motioned and Jack seconded to approve the 12/07/2015 Meeting Minutes as amended. The motion carried.

2) Rental Renewal Inspection of 1750 Farm House

Nita reported that she, Ed and First Selectman Shawn Murphy had inspected the 1750 Farm House in preparation for renewing the tenant lease.

Ed stated that the group found the building to be in good condition with no previously unknown problems. The group took particular note of the deteriorated condition of the railing surrounding the house and the collection of deteriorated pieces that were stacked in the back yard.

Nita and Ed recommended that rickety posts and rails be removed from the house and, along with the ones in the back yard, be stored on the second floor of the Carriage House. This will preserve them until restoration of the fencing can be undertaken.

Ed showed photos taken in the basement of the structure that showed a few deteriorating beams. Although these beams are believed not to be critical to the integrity of the structure, the group will recommend that they be earmarked for repair or replacement in the near term.

During the inspection, the tenant pointed out several minor deficiencies, which the group agreed should be addressed. The tenant also questioned why he would no longer be allowed to maintain a garden on The Green. He was told that this area is not a part of his lease and is designated specifically for public use. It must be maintained in such manner.

In concluding their presentation to the committee, Nita and Ed recommended that the committee consult the Hewitt Farm budget to determine what near-term action can be taken for those items of more importance. The committee agreed that the items should include the pipe leak at the water heater, the soft floor areas and basement beams.

### 3) Animal Control Signs

Coop stated that he had erected small 5-inch by 8-inch "DOGS MUST BE UNDER CONTROL AT ALL TIMES" signs on two Rules Sign posts and the Trail Sign posts at four trail entrances.

Nita showed the group a draft sign suggested by the North Stonington Animal Control Officers. This sign provides a definition of "under control" and the reason control is needed. The group agreed that such detail on a sign is not necessary at this time, but could be considered in the event the present sign is ineffective.

Nita suggested a statement regarding keeping dogs under control on town properties could be provided by the Animal Control Officers for the Spring 2016 issues of *North Stonington Today* and *North Stonington Quarterly*. The committee agreed. Nita will pursue this.

### 4) Members Updates and Additional Items for Discussion

Nita reported that the Hewitt Farm Committee has received a donation of \$500, designated for the Hewitt Farm Community Garden Association, from the Bradshaw Trust.

Nita also passed around an Audubon Christmas card from Cindy Faucher, a former member of the Hewitt Farm Committee.

Nita reported that she had not had an opportunity to meet with the horse trailer operators to determine the adequacy of the Welcome Sign Parking Area for their needs. Coop stated that the area has been enlarged and the sign post moved. He suggested waiting until spring to revisit this issue.

Coop distributed copies of photos he had taken of outdoor bathroom facilities at other public areas similar to Hewitt Farm. The intent is to familiarize committee members with different types of commercial and self-built bathroom facilities that could be constructed on Hewitt Farm.

### 5) Priorities for January 4, 2016

- 2016 Annual Report
- Goals for 2016

Respectfully submitted, Richard B. Cooper