

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

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

**Monday, February 22, 2016 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 3:10 p.m. in the New Town Hall Conference Room with members Ellie Banker, Brian Banker, Jack Brown, Dick (Coop) Cooper, Nita Kincaid and Ed Harasimowitz present. Mary Ann Ricker, representing the Community Garden Association, was also present.

1) Annual Report From Community Garden Association

Mary Ann Ricker, Garden Leader for the Community Garden Association, began the meeting by distributing copies of the *Hewitt Farm Community Garden Year End Report 2015*. This document, submitted as the association's third annual report to the Hewitt Farm Committee, contains (a) an end-of-season summary, (b) names of elected officers, (c) list of association bylaws, (d) list of association rules and regulations, (e) a blank updated release-of-liability form, and (f) the garden plot plan for the upcoming 2016 season. Mary Ann stated that the rules and regulations from the previous year have been strengthened.

Mary Ann also provided copies of a colorful brochure titled *Hewitt Farm Community Garden*. It was prepared by the association for distribution to the public.

Mary Ann stated that the garden is fully subscribed for the coming season and that there is a waiting list of applicants in the event an opening occurs. Brian asked if there is a need to expand the garden to accommodate more gardeners. Mary Ann stated that the association would be discussing this to determine if it should make such a request.

The garden's present size is 10,000 sq. ft. The group discussed the possibility of expanding it to allow 6 additional plots. It was suggested that Community Garden members should discuss this among themselves before addressing the possibility. Issues like where the addition would be located, who would break the soil, and what additional fencing would be needed, should be resolved. Nita stated that if such a request were made, it would be best if it was brought to the Hewitt Farm Committee in the summer to allow time to get approval from the town before the end of the 2016 garden season.

Jack suggested that the water hose used by the gardeners should be buried instead of running across the ground from the spigot to the garden. Mary Ann noted that this has already been done.

Nita asked if it is possible to move the chip pile to the back (south end) of the garden instead of in the front where it is visible. Mary Ann said that the chips are delivered by the Highway Department but that she will investigate this possibility.

Asked about the use of the shed, Mary Ann reported that it is proving to be very useful. One of the unforeseen surprises of the project was the way the shed brought many people together to raise the money needed for its construction.

Mary Ann concluded her presentation by stating that the Community Gardeners were very pleased with the garden's production the past season. In turn, members of the Hewitt Farm Committee offered their congratulations for the successful year, complimenting the association for its operation and the garden's attractive appearance.

2) Approve 01/25/2016 Meeting Minutes

Jack motioned and Brian seconded to approve the 01/25/2016 Meeting Minutes. The motion carried.

3) Buon Appetito Parking

Nita reported that the operators of the Buon Appetito restaurant had begun construction of their parking lot expansion without obtaining the required permits from the Town. Selectman Mullane has stepped forward to assist the owner in moving forward with the PZC to get proper permits and approval.

4) Review of Temporary Trail Sign Replacements

Referring to the three documents he had distributed at the last meeting, Coop briefly reviewed his request for seven (7) permanent trail signs to replace five (5) temporary ones and two (2) additional ones.

Coop explained why each of the signs were chosen and estimated the total cost at \$240.00 based on past purchases from the vendor. Coop will contact the vendor to obtain a firm price. The group agreed that he should proceed and voted unanimously to approve an expenditure of up to \$250.00 from the committee's concentration account.

5) Wheeler Library Summer Activities at Hewitt Farm

Nita reported that she had met with Jen Welborn, President of the Friends of Wheeler Library, to discuss summer projects that the group is planning for Hewitt Farm. Nita provided Jen with a copy of the *Event Form* and asked her to complete and return it as soon as the Friends have decided on any events. Nita offered the Hewitt Farm Committee's help.

6) Repairs to the 1750 Farm House

Nita reported First Selectmen Murphy is supportive of moving on the required 1750 Farm House repairs, but we'll first need to wait to see whether this Capital Project item will be addressed in the *2016/2017 Town Budget*.

7) Priorities for March 7, 2016

- Buon Appetito Parking
- Repairs to the 1750 Farm House
- Purchase of Permanent Trail Signs
- Committee's Scenic Road Responsibilities

Respectfully submitted, Richard B. Cooper