

Town of North Stonington, CT
HEWITT FARM COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Monday, September 24, 2012 at 3:00 p.m
Old Town Hall Meeting Room

The meeting of the Hewitt Farm Committee was called to order by Nita Kincaid at 3:00 p.m. in the Old Town Hall Meeting Room with members Ellie Banker, Jack Brown, Dick (Coop) Cooper, Ed Harasimowitz, and Nita Kincaid present. The agenda had indicated the meeting would take place in the New Town Hall Conference Room, so a sign noting the change of location was posted on the front door of the New Town Hall.

1) Approve 09/10/12 Regular Meeting Minutes

Ed motioned and Ellie seconded to approve the 09/10/12 Regular Meeting Minutes. The motion carried.

2) Approve 09/11/12 Special Meeting Minutes

Ellie motioned and Ed seconded to approve the 09/11/12 Special Meeting Minutes. The motion carried.

3) Review of draft Hewitt Farm Hayfield Request for Proposals

Jack began the review of the draft Request for Proposals (RFP) dated 09/12/2012 by suggesting numerous editorial and clarification corrections.

Nita stated that she believed the draft was complex and this might deter bidders. She referred to the previous Board of Selectmen's RFP dated 09/05/2009 as more understandable to bidders. She further stated, "We are trying to attract potential bidders and we should make the request to them as straightforward and simple as we can."

After additional discussion on the 09/12/2012 draft, the group agreed that Ed would rewrite it, retaining those parts of the draft that can be used and incorporating the discussed changes that were applicable.

First Selectman Nick Mullane paid a brief visit to the meeting. He suggested the committee should contact the DEEP Forester, Scott Dawley, to request advice on the harvesting of wood and maintenance of trees on Hewitt Farm. Jack will contact the Forester and invite him to attend a future committee meeting.

4) Discussion of 9/11/12 Greene Gables visit

The group briefly discussed the joint meeting at the site with the Selectmen and the NS Historical Society. They agreed that Frank Eppinger and others in the Historical Society would be working on a proposal for the use of Greene Gables, which was to be completed in six months time. Nita indicated that she would write a brief memo to the Board of Selectmen requesting that the site be appropriately secured to avoid possible accidents and vandalism in the meantime.

5) Review of Girl Scout Camporee request to use Hewitt Farm

Nita distributed an updated *Project Application* submitted by the Girl Scouts describing their camporee scheduled for October 12 through 14. The revision included activity times and a request that the committee mark an acceptable location for an open campfire.

Coop stated that he has already met with Hewitt Farm House tenant Joe Bremer to inform him of the event and to come to agreement on a good location for the campfire. Coop will mark the area with stakes and so inform the event's contact Angie Amaral. Coop will also write letters to the Bremers and Ms. Prior to officially notify them of the event.

6) Status of rental leases

Nita stated that language had been added to the draft rental lease for 14 Hewitt Road addressing the use of fireplaces and location of the outside grill. Also required insurance language has been added to both the Bremer and Prior leases. The plan is to submit both leases to First Selectman Mullane for signature and then mail them to the tenants for their signature. Both leases will run from October 1, 2012 to September 30, 2013.

7) Member updates on projects and any additional items for group discussion

Grant Leiper has informed the committee that his picnic tables are almost ready for placement and will hopefully be in place in time for the camporee. Grant will site the tables as follows: two (2) in the area of the Butterfly Garden, two (2) at the back of The Green under the tree line, and two (2) in the area of the Canoe & Kayak Launch.

Ellie reminded the group that some time soon we must address guidelines on how to properly recognize those individuals and groups who have devoted so much of their time and effort to improve Hewitt Farm.

Ellie stated that she would speak to Mike Noonan, Music Director at Wheeler High School, and remind him of the opportunity for a music event next spring.

Ellie also inquired if she should speak to Hull Forest Products representative Chris Cassidy about the large trees near Greene Gables and the group agreed this was a worthwhile step.

8) Public comments and questions

There were none.

8) Priorities for the October 15, 2012 agenda

- a) Update on the camporee
- b) Progress on rental leases
- c) Progress on the hayfield contract RFP
- d) Ideas for guest lecturers or consultants
- e) Member updates on projects and additional items for group discussion

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Richard B. Cooper