

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

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**Monday, September 12, 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 3:06 p.m. in the New Town Hall Conference Room with members Brian Banker, Ellie Banker, Jack Brown, Dick (Coop) Cooper and Nita Kincaid present.

1) Approve 08/22/2016 Meeting Minutes

Members reviewed a distributed draft of 08/22/2016 Meeting Minutes and briefly discussed them. Brian then motioned and Jack seconded to approve them as presented.

2) Event Form from Wheeler Library

Nita distributed a copy of an *Event Application* submitted by the Friends of Wheeler Library requesting permission to conduct a Mushroom Walk on Sunday October 2, 2016 from 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. The walk will be led by Maggie Jones from the Dennison Pequotsepos Nature Center. The group reviewed and discussed the application, and unanimously agreed that the event could be held. Nita will so inform the Event Organizer.

The group further agreed that while it does not believe emergency services or troopers need to be informed of the event, we will forward a copy of the *Event Application* to the Board of Selectmen's office.

3) Community Garden Association Expansion Request

At the August 8<sup>th</sup> Hewitt Farm Committee meeting, Mary Ann Ricker presented a request from the Community Garden Association to expand the size of the existing Hewitt Farm Community Garden by 2500 square feet. The Hewitt Farm Committee agreed that, given the success of the Community Garden, they would support this request to the Board of Selectmen, as well as to a Town Meeting if that additional step was deemed necessary.

In preparation for going to the BOS, Nita referenced the document that governs the permitted uses of Hewitt Farm and the types of activities that can take place. She noted that the May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2013 Town Meeting vote in favor of amending these uses to add "Community Garden" as an allowable "use" at the farm does not specifically address the size nor the shape of the garden.

The group concluded that the most prudent way to approve the garden's expansion would be to present the expansion request to the Board of Selectmen at their next meeting and to ask their approval, as well as if a Town Meeting seemed necessary. Nita will attend that meeting and make the request.

4) Naming a Tributary of the Shunock River

Coop stated that he had sent a letter to each of the selectmen requesting his advice on how to proceed with naming the stream that is located in the eastern section of Hewitt Farm. In the letter, Coop offers to attend a Board of Selectmen meeting to describe the stream and explain why the committee would like to name it.

5) Buon Appetito Parking Area

Coop stated that he has been watching the Buon Appetito newly constructed rear parking area and notes that cars appear to be parking on the gravel surface and not on the hayfield as previously witnessed. The group will await filing of the as-built Site Plan before discussing the issue further.

6) Member Updates on Projects & Additional Items for Discussion

Jack stated that there is a build-up of weeds and brush on the eastern side of the Route 2 entrance to Hewitt Farm and it severely restricts visibility to oncoming traffic. The group questioned whether the area is the Town's responsibility or that of the State of Connecticut Department of Transportation. Nita will bring Jack's observation to the First Selectman's attention.

Nita briefly described what the North Stonington Garden Club and several other organizations plan to do during NOSTO Fest16.

Ellie explained an idea she had for the Hewitt Farm Committee to contribute to the event. It involved distributing a brief questionnaire about the features found on Hewitt Farm and awarding simple prizes such as "badges with ribbons" for those individuals with correct answers. The group agreed the idea could be very successful but there is not ample time to assemble the materials for this year's event. Members voiced that it would work well at a future similar event.

Nita stated that North Stonington's most recent *Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2017* still contains money for the operation of Hewitt Farm, repair of the 1750 Farm House, and demolition of vacant structures. There will be a referendum on this version of the budget on September 20, 2016.

7) Priorities for September 26, 2016

- Review Buon Appetito Parking Lot Site Plan
- Ramifications of the FY 2016/2017 Budget Action
- Community Garden Expansion Request
- Naming a Tributary of the Shunock River

Respectfully submitted, Richard B. Cooper