

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

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

**Monday, March 7, 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 3:05 p.m. in the New Town Hall Conference Room with members Brian Banker, Jack Brown, Dick (Coop) Cooper, Nita Kincaid and Ed Harasimowitz present.

1) Approve 02/22/2016 Meeting Minutes

Ed motioned and Brian seconded to approve the 02/22/2016 Meeting Minutes. The motion carried.

2) Buon Appetito Parking

Coop reported that Buon Appetito's revised Site Plan for expanding the restaurant parking lot has not yet been submitted to the Planning and Zoning Commission.

3) Temporary Trail Sign Replacements

Coop stated that he had left a voice-mail message with the trail sign vendor stating the committee's desire to purchase seven new signs. He has not yet heard back from the vendor.

4) Scenic Road Ordinance

Coop distributed a copy of North Stonington's *Scenic Road Ordinance* and reminded the committee of its responsibility with regard to Hewitt Farm abutting town-designated Hewitt Road. Coop noted that Tree Warden Steve Holliday has marked eight trees on Hewitt Road, designating them for removal. Coop stated that all of the marked trees are obviously dead as is evident from the loss of their bark, shedding of branches and lack of foliage over the past several growing seasons. Coop added that several neighbors had also observed the trees and agreed with him that they could be considered dangerous.

Coop said that if the committee agrees, he would notify Steve that the Hewitt Farm Committee has no objection to the trees' removal.

While this issue was being discussed, Senior Planning Coordinator Tom Zanarini stopped by to deliver a copy of a letter he had just written to Steve Holliday. The letter reviewed the town ordinance that governs scenic road maintenance and explains the steps required to allow proposed work on scenic roads, including the needed approval of the Planning and Zoning Commission.

5) Future of the Cabin

Nita reported that First Selectman Murphy would like to meet with the committee to hear its recommendations on what should be done with The Cabin. Nita will arrange a meeting with him but suggested the group first meet together to try to come to a consensus on a recommendation.

6) Fishing Potential

Jack reported that the DEEP “fish truck” had visited Hewitt Pond recently and had introduced hundreds of Brown Trout into the pond, the area near the Canoe and Kayak Launch, and below the dam. The group discussed what it believed to be the chances for survival of the fish given the relatively shallow depth of the pond, the fact that it was drawn down last summer, and the operation of the dam which appears to be somewhat different than the old one.

7) Wheeler Library Summer Activities at Hewitt Farm

Nita stated that Jen Welborn is arranging a visit to Hewitt Farm by 1st Graders sometime in the early spring. She will coordinate the event with Nita.

8) Butterfly Garden and Surrounds

Brian and Coop will trim the Forsythia bushes behind the Butterfly Garden sometime in the next two weeks.

9) CT Trails Day

The group agreed to participate in CT Trails Day by sponsoring a hike at Hewitt Farm. Coop and Nita will lead it. Coop will email the description to the Connecticut Forest and Park Association for inclusion in their brochure.

10) “Pick Up Stones” Sign

Jack presented the group with six metal, very attractive signs to be hung on trees near stone walls that are in disrepair. The signs read, *“Would you like to help? On each visit pick up a fallen stone and place it on the wall. Thank you!”* They are yellow letters on a green background. Jack and Coop will find appropriate locations for them.

11) Priorities for March 21, 2016

- Buon Appetito Parking
- Future of The Cabin
- Forsythia trimming

Respectfully submitted, Richard B. Cooper