

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

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

**Monday, March 21, 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, Ellie Banker, Jack Brown, Dick (Coop) Cooper, Nita Kincaid and Ed Harasimowitz present. Nate Lynch, the reporter for the New London Day was also in attendance.

1) Approve 03/07/2016 Meeting Minutes

Ed motioned and Brian seconded to approve the 03/07/2016 Meeting Minutes. The motion carried.

2) Temporary Trail Sign Replacements

Coop reported that he had submitted the order for trail signs to the vendor and spoken to him on the phone, but has not yet received the vendor's cost proposal.

3) Fishing Potential

Coop noted that the *2016 Connecticut Angler's Guide* reads, "**All vessels prohibited. Operation of vessels, except for electric motors, is prohibited.**" He thought this a bit confusing. Information in the *2016 Connecticut Boaters' Guide*, "**Use of internal combustion engines is prohibited,**" makes much more sense.

Jack reported that opening day for trout fishing is April 9, 2016.

4) Buon Appetito Parking

Nita reported that the operators of the Buon Appetito restaurant have not yet submitted a Site Plan to the Planning and Zoning Commission for the expansion of their parking lot.

7) Wheeler Library Summer Activities at Hewitt Farm

Nita stated that she had provided the Friends of Wheeler Library with a blank *Event/Project Application* form, which they will fill out and returned to the committee when plans for the Wheeler Library 1st Grader's event has been finalized.

8) Butterfly Garden and Surrounds

Brian described what he, Coop and Mary Cooper had done with regard to trimming the Forsythia bushes at the Butterfly Garden. Coop added that on the following day, he and Mary were joined by tenant, Chris, to rake up and and prepare the debris for removal by the Highway Department. That request has gone out to Highway Foreman Steve Holliday.

The group also discussed what would be required in order to “touch-up” the bare spots in the Zoysia grass that remain as a result of trimming the bushes. The group agreed to allow the area to “fill-in” on its own, at least for this year.

The Girl Scout troop that will take over the maintenance of the Butterfly Garden this year has indicated that they intend to establish a program, which will ensure continued maintenance of the garden in the future.

9) “Pick Up a Fallen Stone” Sign

Nothing has yet been done to mount the “Pick Up a Fallen Stone” signs, although Jack and Coop have some ideas where they should go and eventually will hang them.

10) Bat Houses and Salt Lick

Coop has found possible locations for two of the three bat houses, and will ask Gary Kincaid how to mount them for easy removal in case their location is unsatisfactory to the bats.

Jack reported that he has a salt lick, which he will place where the deer can find it.

11) Future of Greene Gables

Nita distributed a copy of a *Press Release* issued by the North Stonington Historical Society announcing, “that the Connecticut State Historical Preservation Office of the Department of Economic and Community Development has listed 'Greene Gables' on the *State Register of Historic Places* on March 2, 2016, as part of the Creative Places initiative.”

Nita also distributed a copy of *Greene Gables - Evaluation and Recommendations*, a written outline prepared by Selectman Mark Donahue and delivered to Frank Eppinger, President of the North Stonington Historical Society, in November 2013. The document's purpose is to inform the Historical Society of the type of information needed by the Board of Selectmen, Hewitt Farm Committee and townspeople to determine what should be done with Greene Gables.

Nita reported that Mr. Eppinger has requested a meeting of the society's “Greene Gables” committee with the Hewitt Farm Committee to discuss the structure's future.

Nita described all events leading up to the present that dealt with Greene Gables and guided the group in a discussion of the many issues, most of them outlined in the

Evaluation and Recommendations document, that must be addressed before any "Greene Gables decision" can be made.

The group agreed to meet with the Historical Society's committee on April 18, 2016 at 3:00 p.m. at the society's Stephen Main Homestead, One Wyassup Road, North Stonington, CT.

12) Priorities for April 4, 2016

- Temporary Trail Sign Replacements
- Buon Appetito Parking
- Future of Greene Gables
- Future of The Cabin

Respectfully submitted, Richard B. Cooper