

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

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**Monday, May 2, 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 3:00 p.m. in the New Town Hall Conference Room with members Brian Banker, Ellie Banker, Dick (Coop) Cooper, Nita Kincaid and Ed Harasimowitz present. Eagle Scout Candidate Jason Miner and his father Robert Miner were also present.

1) Eagle Scout Project

Nita introduced Eagle Scout Candidate Jason Miner to the committee, stating that he was present to describe his proposed Eagle Scout Project and to ask the committee's approval to continue planning it.

Jason explained that he is not required to complete his Eagle project until the spring of 2018, but he wishes to start early and move along at a reasonable pace, rather than under pressure.

Jason began his presentation by distributing a handout of drawings and photographs entitled "Eagle Project - Hewitt Farm." He explained that his proposed project would construct a permanent footbridge in the vicinity of "The Apple Tree" located in the southeast corner of Hayfield #1 where there currently exist four wooden planks that are being used to cross a stream. The planks are old and of questionable integrity, and are located on the neighbor's property. Worse, however, is the fact that hikers must climb over a branch of the old apple tree to cross at the planks, potentially damaging the tree on every occasion? Recognizing this, Jason is proposing to build his footbridge as a permanent structure and locate it further upstream away from the apple tree.

Pointing to the drawings and photos in his handout, Jason described where his footbridge would be located, what materials he would use, and some of his options for the construction process. Jason recognized that he would need to speak with town officials and he anticipates asking a structural engineer to review his final design. He also revealed some ideas he has for funding it.

In his conclusion, Jason stated that he is asking the Hewitt Farm Committee to approve his design as a "concept" and the location he has chosen for it. He will then proceed with obtaining approvals from Boy Scout Troop Unit #71, his Council or District Project Coordinator, and the required officials of the Town of North Stonington.

Committee members responded that they were impressed with Jason's outstanding presentation and the fact that he is providing plenty of time for the planning and

approval process. The committee unanimously agreed to approve the concept and proposed location of the footbridge, and encouraged Jason to proceed with finalizing his design and obtaining the required approvals. Members voiced their thanks and appreciation to him for undertaking this worthy project. The committee asked Jason to return at its June 6, 2016 regular Meeting to provide a status report. Jason agreed.

2) Approve 04/18/2016 Meeting Minutes

Ed motioned and Brian seconded to approve the 04/18/2016 Meeting Minutes as amended. The motion carried.

3) Review and Discussion of the Joint NSHS/HFC Meeting

During the review and subsequent approval of the 04/18/2016 Meeting Minutes, committee members were afforded the opportunity to “revisit” what transpired during the April 18, 2016 joint meeting of the Historical Society's Greene Gables Committee and the Hewitt Farm Committee. The committee agreed that the 04/18/2016 Meeting Minutes sufficiently describe what took place at that meeting. It concluded that, at this point, the next action on Greene Gables is the responsibility of the Historical Society committee.

4) Trail Sign Replacement

Coop reported that he has not yet received a written proposal from the sign vendor.

5) Proposed School-Library Event

Nita distributed a copy of the *Event Project Application* form titled “First Grade Hewitt Farm Field Trip” and went over it item by item. The group unanimously agreed to accept the application, essentially giving the applicant a “go ahead.” The event will take place on Wednesday, May 18, 2016. Starting time is unknown.

Coop asked Nita to communicate with the event's sponsor Jen Welborn to obtain time and place information, and to find out if any committee-member participation is needed.

6) Member updates on Projects and Additional Items

Coop reported that there is a depression in the roadway, and several depressions and a wet spot in the lawn just northwest of the 1750 Farm House. The cause of these is unknown and Coop suggested First Selectman Murphy be notified. The group agreed.

Coop also stated that the graded slope between the Southeastern Connecticut Water Company (SCWA) pump house and Shunock River has been isolated with silt fencing but does not appear to have been seeded. Also a construction trailer remains on-site. The committee questioned whether SCWA's construction at the site is complete. Coop will ask First Selectman Murphy this question and apprise him of the situation.

7) Priorities for May 16, 2016

- 1750 Farm House
- Preparations for School/Library Event
- Temporary Trail Sign Replacements

Respectfully submitted, Richard B. Cooper