

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

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

**Monday, May 16, 2016 at 3:00 p.m.
Wheeler High School Media Center**

The meeting of the Hewitt Farm Committee was called to order by Co-chair Nita Kincaid at 3:04 p.m. in the Wheeler High School Media Center with members Brian Banker, Ellie Banker, Dick (Coop) Cooper, Nita Kincaid and Ed Harasimowitz present. The meeting was moved from the New Town Hall Conference Room due to Referendum.

1) Approve 05/02/2016 Meeting Minutes

Ed motioned and Brian seconded to approve the 05/02/2016 Meeting Minutes. The motion carried.

2) First Grade Field Trip on Wednesday, May 18th

Nita reported that she had received confirmation from Jen Welborn that the First Grade Field Trip to Hewitt farm on Wednesday, May 18th was going ahead as planned and that she expected upwards of 75 attendees including teachers and parents. Coop stated that he had planned a brief trail hike for the group and was awaiting Jen's instructions and schedule. Nita said she would contact Jen to finalize all plans. Coop, Nita and Ellie will participate.

3) CT Trails Day Walk on Sunday, June 5th

Coop reported that the Hewitt Farm Committee, Wheeler Library, and Town Clerk's Office have received a stack of CT Forest and Park Association booklets for distribution to the public. Coop has placed them in the Trail Map dispensers at Hewitt Farm. The booklets advertise *CT Trails Weekend*, which will be held on June 4th and 5th. Coop and Nita will lead a one-hour hike at the farm that Sunday beginning at 1:00 p.m. Committee members are encouraged to join in.

4) Butterfly Garden Renewal

Nita reported that the Butterfly Garden received much attention over the weekend and is being prepared by the Girl Scouts to accept new plantings and mulch. The committee expressed its appreciation for the work being done by the Scouts to rehabilitate the garden.

5) Future Eagle and Cub Scout Projects

Nita reported that she had received an email from Eagle Scout Candidate Nathan Cherenzia asking if there was a project at Hewitt Farm that he could perform. Nita told him that the committee was updating its list and that she would send him the final version. Coop added that he had been contacted by Cub Master Kelly Allen inquiring into the types of projects or events that Cub Scouts could perform at Hewitt Farm. As a result, Coop drafted a list of "Possible Scout Projects at Hewitt Farm" for the committee to review and update before he sends it .

The committee reviewed and updated Coop's list, added several items, and separated it into two lists – one containing projects and events more suitable for Cub Scouts and one with projects more appropriate for Eagle Scout and Gold Award candidates. The lists will be finalized and sent to the respective parties.

6) Replacement of Temporary Trail Signs

Coop stated that he had received six newly ordered Trail Signs but had not yet opened the package.

7) 1750 Farm House and Meadow Maintenance

Nita reported that there may be as little a \$1,000 remaining in the budget for remaining expenses at Hewitt Farm this fiscal year. However, the request of the committee for next year's funds still continues to be included in the FY2016-2017 Budget.

Brian asked committee members when they expected the 1750 Farm House Meadow to be brush-hogged. The group agreed that based upon past experience, mid-to-late November appears be the best time.

8) Member Updates

Coop stated that he had spoken to First Selectman Murphy asking if the Southeastern Connecticut Water Company (SCWA) intends to seed the graded slope between its pump house and Shunock River. Mr Murphy replied that he would discuss the matter with Selectman Mullane who is on the SCWA Board of Directors.

9) Priorities for June 6, 2016

- Report on the First Grade Field Trip and *CT Trails Day* events
- 1750 Farm House maintenance
- Coop's April 14th communication regarding trail names

Respectfully submitted, Richard B. Cooper