

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

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

**Monday, June 20, 2016 at 3:00 p.m.
Wheeler Library Meeting Room**

The meeting of the Hewitt Farm Committee was called to order by Co-chair Nita Kincaid at 3:10 p.m. in the Wheeler Library Meeting Room with members Brian Banker, Ellie Banker, Jack Brown, Dick (Coop) Cooper, and Nita Kincaid present.

1) Approve 06/06/2016 Meeting Minutes

Coop motioned and Ellie seconded to approve the 06/06/2016 Meeting Minutes as amended. The motion carried.

2) North Stonington Garden Club Project

Nita reported that she had spoken to Karen Askins representing the North Stonington Garden Club about a project that the club proposes to undertake over the next several years. The project will likely involve "letter boxing". The original timeline called for completing the project within three years but the club intends to lay it out within the next year and complete it the following year. Club members have visited the farm and are now at the planning and discussion stage. Details of the project such as its name and exact location on the farm are yet to be determined.

3) Ethan Wiggins' Eagle Scout Project

Nita distributed a copy of Ethan Wiggins' *Eagle Scout Service Project Proposal*, which describes the general concept of his project and is required of all Eagle Scout Candidates in order to receive Council approval.

Coop described a walk he had taken with Ethan earlier in the day to familiarize him with Hewitt Farm and to view various locations where vegetation identification signs might be erected that would be informative to visitors. Coop and Ethan discussed many different possibilities for his project and he will return to the farm on his own at a later time to finalize his plans. Ethan will return to present them in the fall after he returns from his summer activities.

4) Nathan Cherenzia: Potential Eagle Scout Project

Nita reported that Nathan Cherenzia had emailed her that he will be traveling for much of the summer but that he would like to do his Eagle Scout project at Hewitt Farm and intends to contact the committee in early August to discuss ideas on a site for a new footbridge. Coop drew several possible locations for a footbridge or boardwalk on the Trail Map and stated that he is prepared to explain why one of the locations in particular should be considered over all the others.

5) North Stonington Historical Society Communications

The committee has not yet received any information from the North Stonington Historical Society regarding the three professional appraisals of Greene Gables' structural condition, particularly what would be required to stabilize and secure the building. At our April joint meeting the society had agreed to obtain this information.

Noting that the proposed (as of 06/20/2016) FY2016-2017 Town Budget contains a line item for the demolition of unspecified town-owned structures that are in poor condition, the committee discussed the possibility of using some of this money to demolish the Cabin and/or Greene Gables. Nita suggested that if said budget is approved, the committee should be prepared to recommend to the Board of Selectman that the money or a portion of it be used for removal of one or both of these structures.

If funds do become available, the demolition of either structure would require approval by a Town Meeting according to the "Hewitt Property Proposed Uses, Rules, and Regulations" that were approved at a December 15, 2010 Town Meeting.

Nita's further suggestion to the committee was that if the budget is passed, the Historical Society's Greene Gables Committee should be encouraged to proceed as expediently as possible to obtain the three appraisals of Greene Gables so that an informative presentation to the voters can be made.

The committee agreed unanimously with Nita's suggestions but will await approval of a FY2016-2017 Town Budget before proceeding.

6) Member Updates on Projects & Any Additional Items for Group Discussion

Jack reported that he had sprayed the Federated Garden Club's Oak Tree for Gypsy Moth caterpillars, apparently quite successfully. No creepy-crawlers can be found on it.

Jack had also noticed a bucket of crushed stone located behind the Corncrib. He questioned if anyone knew anything about it. No one did! Jack will call Bill Ricker from the Community Garden Association to ask if they object to its removal.

Nita reported that the four hayfields have received their first harvesting of the season and the farmers stated they were "pleased with production". The farmers will brush-hog the borders in days to come.

The farmers also noted that the area over the galleries behind the Buon Appetito restaurant has once again grown up in weeds, which could propagate into the hay crop. Nita will discuss mowing this with the Highway Department.

Nita reported that the operators of the restaurant were issued a Building Permit to use their newly constructed parking lot. Coop will obtain a copy of the *Site Plan*. Ellie suggested that committee members remain vigilant with respect to any encroachment of parked vehicles into the hayfield.

Nita stated that she had received an email from Diana Hunt of the Community Garden Association inquiring if plants donated by a local nursery can be stored in the vicinity of the garden until such time as they are either distributed or used by the gardeners. The committee agreed this could be done as long as the Community Garden Association takes responsibility for the activity.

Jack stated the pilings that will be used to delineate the Hewitt Road Parking Area have been split into rails and that he has paid a bill of \$200.00 for the work. The group agreed to make payment from the Hewitt Farm account. Jack will forward the invoice to Nita to arrange reimbursement.

Brian has received the bollards (also part of the system) and will trim them when opportunity arises.

Coop added that Jeff Danforth of Vancouver, WA has been paid for the six permanent Trail Signs that he provided. Total cost was \$258.25 after a \$70.00 discount. Coop has promised him photographs of the signs "in service."

7) Priorities for July 11, 2016

- 1750 Farm House maintenance
- Status of Eagle Scout projects

Respectfully submitted, Richard B. Cooper