

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

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**Monday, October 31, 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 3:10 p.m. in the New Town Hall Conference Room with members Brian Banker, Ellie Banker, Dick (Coop) Cooper, Ed Harasimowitz and Nita Kincaid present. Eagle Scout Candidate Jason Miner and his father Robert Miner were also present.

1) Eagle Scout Project Updates

Eagle Scout Candidate Jason Miner attended the meeting to update the committee on his progress in constructing a new footbridge near the Apple Tree. Jason stated that he received an *Inland Wetlands and Zoning Permit* on September 14<sup>th</sup> and has already set four concrete footings to support the bridge's main span. He will be working from computer-generated drawings and is currently in the process of raising funds to purchase materials. Copies of the drawings were given to committee members.

Jason stated that he intends to use about a half-dozen of the split utility poles that the committee offered. When asked for an anticipated completion date, he replied that the structure would be fabricated at his home during the winter and spring months and possibly moved into place next summer.

Coop noted that the new location of Jason's footbridge would necessitate re-routing the trail approaches on both sides of the brook. Committee members will do this after the bridge is installed. Members thanked Jason and his father for attending the meeting and for bringing the committee up-to-date on the project.

2) Approve 10/17/2016 Meeting Minutes

Ed motioned and Brian seconded to approve the 10/17/2016 Meeting Minutes as amended. The motion carried.

3) Award for Trail Signs from the North Stonington Garden Club

Nita presented a letter from President of the North Stonington Garden Club Susan Vincent to Co-chair Dick Cooper and the Hewitt Farm Committee announcing a donation of \$650 for the construction and installation of five new Cart Path and Horse Crossing signs at the farm. Coop will finalize the Purchase Order for approval by the committee before submitting it to the manufacturer. He will also write a letter to the Garden Club thanking its members for the donation, their continuing support, and their involvement in using Hewitt Farm.

4) Annual Report for FY 2015/2016

Nita distributed copies of a preliminary *Hewitt Farm Committee Annual Report 2015/2016* that she had drafted for review and approval by committee members before submitting it to the Board of Finance. The group discussed the use of annual reports in other towns and how the reports are viewed in North Stonington. Members acknowledged that they have submitted an *Annual Report* for Hewitt Farm every year since 2012.

Nita also showed the group a sample format for the report. Members approved the format and a few text changes. Nita will submit the document to the Board of Finance.

5) Mowing of Buon Appetito Gallery Area

Coop reported that the Highway Department had completed mowing the gallery area behind the Buon Appetito restaurant. The group discussed the possibility of planting a vegetative ground cover that would be more attractive and manageable than the weeds, which currently grow there. Nita will ask farmer Ron Lewis if he has any recommendations.

6) Member Updates on Projects and Additional Items for Discussion

Brian is planning to “brush-hog” the Welcome Sign Parking Area sometime late in November after there has been a solid freeze. Coop will then attempt to make the parking area larger to accommodate horse trailers. Nita stated that it might be possible to turn horse trailers within the Route 2 Parking Area. The group agreed both possibilities should be pursued.

Coop reported that the *Trail Sign Purchase Order* is not yet finalized because he did not know where the approaches to Jason Miner's footbridge would be located. He will present his recommendations for the signs at the next meeting.

Nita reported that an *FY 2016/2017 Annual Budget* Town Meeting and Referendum are scheduled for mid-November and early-December respectively. Only after that will we know the level of funding for Hewitt Farm for the coming year.

7) Priorities for November 14, 2016

- Progress of the *FY 2016/2017 Annual Budget*
- Update on ongoing scout projects
- Naming a tributary of the Shunock River

Respectfully submitted, Richard B. Cooper