

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

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**Monday, December 19, 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, Jack Brown, Dick "Coop" Cooper, Ed Harasimowitz and Nita Kincaid present.

1) Approval of 11/14/2016 and 12/05/2016 Meeting Minutes

During the discussion of the 11/14/2016 and 12/05/2016 Meeting Minutes, Nita described the reason for installing a new hot water tank in the 1750 Farm House. The plumber who installed the new tank explained that the tank needed replacement due to significant rust and deterioration related to minerals in the water. She also reported that the cost will be paid from the Hewitt Farm's Town Budget Line.

Coop motioned and Ellie seconded to approve the 11/14/2016 Meeting Minutes. Brian motioned and Ed seconded to approve the 12/05/2016 Meeting Minutes. Both motions carried unanimously.

2) Annual Inspection of 1750 Farm House

Ed described the annual inspection he and Nita had performed on the 1750 Farm House. He stated they were joined by Gill Bliss and Gene Anderson, local contractors with experience in early structures. The committee is concerned about some weak, deteriorating structural beams in one area of the basement. After Gil and Gene thoroughly inspected the area, they agreed to provide an estimate of what it would cost to repair and stabilize the area. The committee may also re-contact Brian Crandall who looked at the area last January, if another estimate is needed.

Nita reminded the committee that the recently approved 2016/2017 Town Budget contains \$10,000 for this work.

3) New Trail Sign Order

Coop showed the group the new trail signs that he had just received from the vendor and stated that he would be erecting them in their designated locations over the next several months.

4) Projects Related to 2016/2017 Budget Approval

Nita stated that after the 1<sup>st</sup> of the year (2017) the Hewitt Farm Committee should discuss with the Board of Selectmen whether they are willing to take action on demolishing the Cabin and/or Greene Gables structures. \$60,000 has been approved in the 2016/2017 Town Budget for "Abatement and Demolition of Town Buildings" and either of these buildings may qualify, along with a few others in town. In the case of a Hewitt Farm building, there would likely be a Town Meeting conducted for the purpose of discussing such an action.

Ed asked why it is necessary to "go to" the electors of the town at a Town Meeting to ask their permission, while another structure in town, which is also a candidate for demolition, could be razed without such approval.

In discussion, the group agreed that Item #28 of the *Uses, Rules, and Recommendations* document approved at the Town Meeting on December 15, 2010, provides guidance as to what changes on Hewitt Farm require Board of Selectmen and/or voter approval. The committee determined it would be best for everyone if the electors participated in making this decision.

The committee agreed to provide information that will be needed for a town meeting presentation. Members will compile a list of "pros" and "cons" of demolishing the Cabin and Greene Gables for discussion at the next meeting.

5) Member Updates on Projects and Additional Items for Discussion

Jack noted that the Greene Gables Meadow behind the Community Garden had not been brush-hogged. This is as intended in order to protect wildlife and this meadow will be mowed in the spring.

Nita stated the *North Stonington Quarterly* was in the process of being published and contained an article about Hewitt Farm and the Community Garden.

Brian asked if the restaurant patrons and employees were parking in accordance with the plan they had submitted. Coop noted that it appeared so, but no one was sure if the plan was actually in force.

6) Priorities for January 9, 2017

- Possible demolition of structures
- Update on Eagle Scout projects
- Installation of new Trail Signs

Respectfully submitted, Richard B. Cooper