

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

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**Monday, July 25, 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, Jack Brown, Dick (Coop) Cooper, Ed Harasimowitz and Nita Kincaid present.

1) Approve 0711/2016 Meeting Minutes

Brian motioned and Ed seconded to approve the 07/11/2016 Meeting Minutes as amended. The motion carried.

2) Application for North Stonington Garden Club Discretionary Funds

Nita described the North Stonington Garden Club's Discretionary Funds Program and what would be required in a relatively short period of time in order to apply for funds. The group agreed that most of the projects that it had discussed at the previous meeting would require too much time to obtain the information needed. The particulars of one of the projects, however, are well known and this particular project does meet the criteria of the program.

Coop distributed a copy of the *Inventory of Permanent Trail Signs*. The document shows which signs have already been replaced and which still need replacement. Following review and discussion of the inventory, the committee agreed to request funding from the Garden Club for the purchase of five replacement Trail Signs and five "CART PATH" and "HORSE CROSSING" signs. This purchase essentially continues the committee's sign replacement program, which was funded by the Garden Club when it was begun in 2012. Coop will complete the Application form before July 31st and deliver it to Nita who will sponsor the project.

3) Buon Appetito Parking Area

Coop reported that the As-built Site Plan for the Buon Appetito parking area has not yet been filed with the Town Clerk and is therefore unavailable for review. Coop will obtain a copy for the committee soon as it is filed.

Nita read an email from the hayfield farmers in which they reported that patrons and/or employees of the restaurant continue to park on the hayfield even though the new parking lot is complete. Nita suggested that committee members visit the site to see the

problem first hand and be prepared to discuss it when the Site Plan does become available.

4) Participation in North Stonington Fest 2016

Nita distributed an aerial-view map showing the locations of proposed activity sites during the North Stonington Fest 2016 planned for Saturday, September 26<sup>th</sup>. She announced that there would be no “rain date”. The group discussed possible things that could be done “in the name of Hewitt Farm”, but it was concluded that more than our ‘information table’ would be desirable and appropriate. The committee deferred any decision on participating in the event pending a suitable idea that would involve some type of activity.

5) Request to expand the Community Garden

Nita reported that the Community Garden Association has staked-out an area for expansion that they are requesting be added to the existing Community Garden. Committee members, although they had not yet seen the marked site, discussed a concern over whether any expansion of the garden into the Greene Gables Meadow area might jeopardize future event parking. The group also discussed what steps will be required to obtain proper approval for such an expansion.

Committee members will visit the site individually and discuss the request at their next meeting. A representative from the Community Garden Association will be asked to attend.

6) Eagle Scout Projects

Coop reported that he was prepared to meet with Eagle Scout Candidate Nathan Cherenzia to show him the several locations on Hewitt Farm where a footbridge is needed. Coop will await Nathan's phone call.

7) Member Updates on Projects & Additional Items for Discussion

Brian reported that Jack, Ed and he had put the new bollards and rails in place around the Hewitt Road Parking Area and the Handicapped Parking Area. Coop will get the remaining logs removed. An area in the west end of the Hewitt Road Parking Area contains many small stumps and rocks that should be removed at some time in the future. Jack will take responsibility for getting this done.

Ed asked about the Board of Selectmen's proposal to demolish several town-owned structures if the associated Line Item in the *2016/2017 Town Budget* is approved. Nita explained the selectmen's intentions, which suggest that the The Cabin and/or Greene Gables could be included.

Jack reported seeing signs that the volunteer “stone wall re-builders” are at work on Hewitt Farm and that he has been trying to locate them to offer some tools. He has not

yet met them. Coop has, and he will remove their debris piles as the piles are created. Jack is currently working to clean up the sloped area behind the 1750 Farm House.

Ed asked about the request from a town resident to use Hewitt Farm for a wedding. Coop replied that he had informed the caller that alcoholic beverages are not permitted on Hewitt Farm and that there are no bathroom facilities or utilities available. The caller declined further interest. The committee questioned whether a way might be found for issuing a special permit to serve alcohol on the property. Nita will investigate this possibility.

As one of the possible projects for funding by the Garden Club's Discretionary Fund, Nita had suggested planting bushes or shrubbery across the road from the 1750 Farm House to prevent visitors from parking on the septic and dry-well system. After discussion the group agreed that the sign presently in that location is adequate but that it should be replaced with a more attractive and durable one.

Jack reported that the area over the dry-well has been loamed and seeded by the Highway Department, and that all work appears to be complete.

Nita reported that obtaining estimates for work on the 1750 Farm House beams will begin if the proposed *2016/2017 Town Budget* is approved.

8) Priorities for August 8, 2016

- Expansion of the Community Garden
- Buon Appetito Parking Area & Site Plan
- Application for Garden Club Discretionary Funds
- Ramifications of FY 2016/2017 Budget Approval

Respectfully submitted, Richard B. Cooper