

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

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**Monday, April 24, 2017 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 3:04 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) Approve of 04/10/2017 Meeting Minutes

Coop motioned and Brian seconded to approve the 04/10/2017 Meeting Minutes. The motion carried.

2) Status of Town Meeting for Greene Gables

Nita distributed a copy of the handout that Frank Eppinger had given to the Selectmen at their meeting on April 11, 2017. The document describes the Historical Society's proposed control of Greene Gables, planned solicitation of funds for its stabilization and repair/restoration, proposed use of the repaired/restored structure, and the building's cultural and historic significance.

For the benefit of committee members who were not present, Nita briefly described what was said at the meeting, including Selectman Murphy's questions and Frank Eppinger's answers.

Nita also distributed a copy of the document that the committee had prepared for First Selectman Murphy to use when wording *The Question* for a Town Meeting/referendum on the Greene Gables issue. Nita's document also included background information on the Greene Gables from 2008 to the present time.

As a result of the Selectmen's meeting, it was agreed that the Historical Society could have two knowledgeable individuals inspect Greene Gables in order to estimate the cost of stabilizing it. Following this, the Historical Society will, if it wishes, propose at a Town Meeting how it intends to control Greene Gables, how it intends to secure adequate funds to restore the building, and how it intends to use the building. The First Selectman has indicated that he would like to hold a joint Town Meeting/Referendum at the same time the FY 2017/2018 Budget is decided.

Jack asked what is next and the group acknowledged that it would wait for the Historical Society's cost estimate and next steps to be received.

3) Status of 1750 Farm House Repairs

Nita Reported that she had contacted the tenants of the 1750 Farm House to inform them about the work scheduled. Gene Anderson had indicated he would try to begin work in May. A check for 50% of the estimated cost has been sent to him. The amount may be exceeded if additional damage is discovered once work has begun.

First Selectman Murphy indicated that the Highway Department will take responsibility for removing the rear porch. This must be done before Mr. Anderson can begin repairs.

4) Member Updates on Projects and Additional Items for Discussion

Jack reported that he has been planting Missouri Mammoth Hickory Nut trees throughout the farm and that they can be identified by the two support posts on either side of them. Coop will provide him with a map so that he can mark where each of these trees is located.

Jack also reported that he has completed two rabbit patches and will mark them on the map.

Nita informed the group that there will be another NOSTO Fest this fall. The group agreed that this time it will have sufficient time to plan a way to participate. Ed and Coop will look into it.

The group asked Coop to write a letter thanking Jason Miner for the new footbridge. It is anticipated that formal completion of this project will not occur until fall, so this may be an appropriate time for such letter.

The group thanked Coop for writing the letter to the Grange informing members that the Bluebird houses have been cleaned out and are in good condition.

5) Priorities for May 8, 2017

- Work in the 1750 Farm House
- Update on progress of Scout projects

Respectfully submitted, Richard B. Cooper