

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

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**Monday, February 6, 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 3:10 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) Election of Officers

Nita informed the group that since it was a new calendar year, it was time for the election of committee officers. After a brief discussion, the group unanimously agreed to retain the current slate, namely two Co-chairs, Nita Kincaid and Dick Cooper.

2) Approve of 01/23/2017 Meeting Minutes

Coop motioned and Ed seconded to approve the 01/23/2017 Meeting Minutes as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

3) Pros and Cons of Saving/Demolishing Greene Gables and/or the Cabin

Nita distributed two documents entitled *Pros and Cons of Saving Hewitt Farm's Greene Gables* and *Pros and Cons of Saving Hewitt Farm's Cabin* that provided a timeline of events regarding Greene Gables and the Cabin following their purchase by the town in October 2008. The document also listed two sets of pros and cons of *saving* or *not saving* each of the structures. The lists had been compiled by the committee over the past several meetings and are intended for submission to First Selectman Murphy upon completion.

The Committee reviewed and discussed each item on the "pros and cons" lists, and concluded that it had reached a point where it could render a recommendation. Members agreed to the following: "Based on the lists, a majority of members of the Hewitt Farm Committee are in favor of demolishing both Greene Gables and the Cabin". Members discussed the fact that the final decision would be in the hands of the voters and added a request that the Board of Selectmen obtain an estimate on the cost of demolishing each structure before a Town Meeting is held on this question.

4) Update on Eagle Scout Projects

Eagle Scout Candidate Nate Cherenzia arrived at 4:00 p.m. to report on the progress of his project and request approval to proceed with design, fund raising and construction.

Nate's proposal, which will be presented to the Inland Wetlands Commission followed by a Boy Scouts of America Council, consists of constructing a pedestrian bridge over a tributary of the Shunock River at the north end of Upper Hewitt Pond. Nate described his

project to the committee using a PowerPoint presentation that listed the purpose, location and design of the bridge, his proposed schedule, projected cost, how he intends to raise funds, and the process by which the bridge will be constructed.

After questions and discussion by members, the committee unanimously agreed to approve Nate's project and allow him to proceed with the permitting process. The group thanked Nate for his important contribution to Hewitt Farm and complimented him on a very professional presentation.

5) Hewitt Farm Committee 2017/2018 Annual Budget

Nita informed the group that she had submitted the 2017/2018 Annual Budget to the Board of Selectmen.

6) Goals for 2017

As a first step in developing a plan for this year's work effort, the group listed several goals that it considers most important. They are (a) repairs and updates to the 1750 Farm House, (b) a resolution to the Greene Gables and Cabin issue, and (c) monitoring and supporting ongoing Scout projects.

7) Member Updates on Projects and Additional Items for Discussion

Jack noted that he has been installing "bunny patches" at various locations throughout Hewitt Farm, and has located "bunny patch" materials at easily accessible places for use by helpers.

Nita stated there should be more communications between the Recreation Commission, Conservation Commission and Hewitt Farm Committee. She will explore the possibility of having a joint meeting of these groups at some time in the near future. She also reminded Coop that "CT Trails Day" was drawing near and that the committee should start thinking of if and how it intends to participate.

7) Priorities for February 27, 2017

- Disposition of "Pros and Cons" list
- Update on Eagle Scout projects
- Work on the 1750 Farm House

Respectfully submitted, Richard B. Cooper