

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

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**Monday, June 6, 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 3:05 p.m. in the New Town Hall Conference Room with members Brian Banker, Ellie Banker, Jack Brown, Dick (Coop) Cooper, and Nita Kincaid present. Eagle Scout Candidate Ethan Patrick Wiggins was also present.

The group unanimously agreed to change the order of items on the Agenda to allow Ethan to present his *Eagle Scout Service Project Proposal*.

1) Ethan Wiggins' Eagle Scout Project

Nita introduced Ethan and described a telephone conversation she had with him in regard to his doing an Eagle Scout Service Project at Hewitt Farm. She invited him to attend the meeting today and he accepted her offer.

Ethan began the discussion by providing a copy of his *Eagle Scout Service Project Proposal*, a document that describes the project. The document will be used by the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) organization to evaluate and grant approval of the project. According to Ethan, if his proposal were approved, he would be “constructing sign posts to describe some of the various plant and animal species on the Hewitt Farm” and “replacing older map boxes at the Hewitt Farm with newer and more weather resistant ones.”

Ethan's request to our committee was to approve his “concept”, so that he may proceed to ask for approval from the BSA Council. After that he would begin more detailed planning for the project. After considerable questions and discussion, the committee unanimously agreed to grant approval for the concept. Before work is begun, however, Ethan must return to the committee for approval of his Final Plan.

2) Approve 05/16/2016 Meeting Minutes

Coop motioned and Ellie seconded to approve the 05/16/2016 Meeting Minutes. The motion carried.

3) Jason Miner's Eagle Scout Project

Nita reported that Jason Miner had contacted her to say that his Eagle Scout Project was approved by the BSA Council. She told him it was not necessary for him to attend today's meeting, as she would communicate this update to our committee.

Jason's next step is to finalize his design and obtain an engineer's consent. He will return to the committee when his project plans are complete.

#### 4) First Grade Field Trip

Ellie and Nita described the events of the First Grade Field Trip for the benefit of committee members who were unable to attend. The event took place on May 18<sup>th</sup> and included 55 children, plus parents, teachers and volunteer guides. Committee members who attended remarked that parents were very enthusiastic. Members were also impressed with how attentive and well behaved the children were.

Jen Welborn, the school volunteer who had organized the trip, conducted water testing as a demonstration to the children. Her unofficial results suggest that Hewitt Pond is lower than normal in oxygen content. This is something the committee has suspected for some time and believes it may be due to the pond's shallow condition.

#### 5) CT Trails Day Walk

Coop and Nita briefly described the June 5<sup>th</sup> Connecticut Forest and Park Association sponsored event conducted on *CT Trails Day*. Although the weather continuously threatened, a gentleman from Bloomfield and a family from New London with two very young girls arrived at 1:00 pm to accompany us on the walk. We left the **Welcome Sign** area, traveled the **That "Dam" Trail** to the dam, crossed **The Dam** and toured the **Community Garden**, traveled the **Mystic Road Trail** to and across **The Weir**, and headed back north on the **Loop Trail** to where we began. The walk only took about an hour so the family-plus-one then hiked up the **Bicentennial Trail** to **Tipping Rock** by themselves. Maybe next year the walk should be a little longer.

#### 6) The Dam

Nita reported that the contractor had returned to the dam to complete the "punch list" of items, which had yet to be addressed.

#### 7) 1750 Farm House and Meadow Maintenance

Nita reported that the Highway Department had dug up the "wet spot" near the 1750 Farm House and determined that the drywell was overflowing due to continual "dripping" of water into it. Further investigation revealed that possibly the shut-off valves in one or two of the older toilets the Farm House were leaking and this sent continuous water into the septic tank and eventually to the drywell.

Plumber Matt Deshefy was summoned to repair the toilet and it is believed that the flow to the drywell has stopped. Highway Foreman Steve Holliday is monitoring the situation.

#### 8) Member Updates

Brian reported that he was told of a stray dog in the area of the Welcome Sign and asked if anyone on the committee knew to whom it might belong. No one responded.

Jack asked about the *Volunteer Workers* list that he had submitted previously and was told that it had been shortened and separated into two lists at an earlier meeting. Jack will check both lists against the original to see if any projects were inadvertently omitted.

Coop stated that he had spoken to Curt Moussie on April 14<sup>th</sup> asking him if it was permissible to use "Dew Drop Inn" as the name of one of Hewitt Farm's new trails. Curt is the son of Curtis and Ethel Moussie, owners and operators of the former Dew Drop Inn located on Route 2 near the new trail. Curt said he had no objection and that it was a thoughtful gesture.

Coop reported that he had met with Cub Master Kelly Allen and that he had briefly described possible activities at the farm that might be appropriate for Cub Scouts. No decisions have been made.

Nita announced that Girl Scout Troop 63813 is restoring the Butterfly Garden and that those involved report that they are "enjoying working on it."

Nita reported that the \$10,000 placed in the 2016/2017 budget by the Board of Selectmen for repairs to the 1750 Farm House remains for approval at the Budget Referendum.

Coop informed the group that he had completed mounting all six of the new trail signs and was very pleased with their appearance. He is awaiting the vendor's invoice.

Brian has received the bollards and rails for installation at the Hewitt Road Parking Area. He will coordinate with Jack and Coop to cut, trim and deliver them.

Ellie, Nita and Coop updated Jack Brown about the committee's April meeting with the Historical Society re: Greene Gables.

Nita briefly described a proposed trail project by the Garden Club, which might involve installing letterboxes on Hewitt Farm. This project is in a very preliminary planning stage and the committee will await more information from the club.

9) Priorities for June 20, 2016

- 1750 Farm House maintenance
- Status of Eagle Scout projects
- Garden Club project

Respectfully submitted, Richard B. Cooper