

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

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

**Monday, October 17, 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, Ellie Banker, Jack Brown, Dick (Coop) Cooper, Ed Harasimowitz and Nita Kincaid present.

1) Approve 09/12/2016 Meeting Minutes

Ellie motioned and Ed seconded to approve the 09/12//2016 Meeting Minutes. The motion carried.

2) Annual Report Requested by Board of Finance

Nita distributed copies of a letter from the Board of Finance requesting that listed town organizations submit an *Annual Report* for the fiscal year 2015/2016. Because the Hewitt Farm Committee has traditionally prepared and submitted its Annual Reports on a calendar-year basis, it will be necessary to combine and include fiscal information from the last half of 2015 with fiscal information from the first half of 2016. Nita will perform this task and have the report ready for review by the committee at its next meeting.

The group next discussed the work projects and events that were performed at Hewitt Farm during the first 6 months of 2016. A description of these projects and events along with those from the last half of 2015 will also be included in the report.

3) Eagle Scout Projects

Coop stated that he had communicated with Eagle Scout Candidates Cherenzia, Wiggins, and Miner. The scouts report they are proceeding with their projects and will schedule reviews and updates with the committee as soon as they are ready.

4) Possible Girl Scout Troop Bronze Award Project

Nita described a discussion she had with Girl Scout Leader Nicole Gagnon who inquired about a possible Girl Scout Bronze Award Project, which would clear a picnic area at the northern point of land on Lower Hewitt Pond. Nita had indicated to Nicole that she and probably Coop would be happy to meet with her at the site to discuss the possibility. Nita will relay to Nicole that the committee's approach in the past has been to encourage scouts to develop an overview of what they would do based upon what they feel they are capable of doing.

5) Naming a Tributary of the Shunock River

Coop stated that he and Nita had attended a Board of Selectmen's meeting and Coop briefed the selectmen on the existence of the Shunock River tributary and the committee's desire to name it. Selectmen agreed that the committee should ask the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection how to go about formally naming a natural feature such as a brook or stream. The selectmen also acknowledged that the committee should contact the town's various land use officials and commissions to ask their suggestions on the naming. Coop will make the necessary inquiries.

6) Member Updates on Projects & Additional Items for Discussion

Nita told the group that she had accompanied North Stonington Garden Club members on a walk at Hewitt Farm during which they outlined the potential layout of the "Discovery Trail", a nature project that they had proposed earlier this year. The club expects possible completion of this project to be in 2017, since they now have a clearer vision of what they wish to do. When the trail layout is complete, the club members noted, they would want Hewitt Farm Committee members to be among the first to "try it out".

In answering a question from Ed about the possible demolition of The Cabin and/or Greene Gables, Nita answered that until the 2016/2017 Budget is adopted there is no advantage in further discussing what could or should be done.

Nita mentioned she had been informed that there are professional dog walkers using Hewitt Farm to exercise dogs. The group agreed that this was an acceptable activity provided all of the dogs are under control at all times. If contrary behavior is observed, committee members should remind the dog walkers of the rule.

The group discussed what had transpired at the "NOSTO16 Fest" and those members who attended agreed that it was a huge success.

Ellie Banker reported that she had walked with the Friends of Wheeler Library on the Maggie Jones' "Mushroom Walk" and it was well attended with many mushrooms to view.

7) Priorities for October 31, 2016

- Review of draft 2015/2016 Annual Report
- Ramifications of the FY 2016/2017 Budget Approval
- Update on future and ongoing scout projects

Respectfully submitted, Richard B. Cooper