

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

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

**Monday, June 19, 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 3:08 p.m. in the New Town Hall Conference Room with members Brian Banker, Ellie Banker, Dick "Coop" Cooper, Ed Harasimowitz and Nita Kincaid present. Mary Ann Ricker and Steve Aiello, representing the Community Garden Association, also attended.

1) Approve of 06/05/2017 Meeting Minutes

Ed motioned and Ellie seconded to approve the 06/05/2017 Meeting Minutes. The motion carried.

2) Update by Community Garden Leaders

Mary Ann Ricker and Steve Aiello, Co-leaders of the Community Garden Association, informed the group that Steve would be taking over most of the leadership functions next year. Steve has been a member of the association for several years and is very familiar with its operation.

For Steve's benefit, Nita described the manner in which the Hewitt Farm Committee and the Community Garden Association have worked together since 2013. The Community Garden Association is a group of volunteers who sign an annual agreement with the Hewitt Farm Committee that allows them to utilize a specific area on the Hewitt Farm for gardening. The association has a very clear set of Bylaws, as well as rules and regulations for the garden, which are guidelines for what they can do on the property. This has worked very well for all concerned.

Nita and Ellie complimented Mary Ann and the association on their successful use of the property for many to enjoy. The committee thanked Mary Ann and Steve for the update and their excellent leadership, and wished them and the community gardeners' success through the coming season.

3) New Picnic Grove Project

The committee reviewed a *draft* Project Application for construction of a picnic grove in an area near the northern end of That "Dam" Trail where the land juts out into Lower Hewitt Pond. Coop submitted the *draft* application following a visit to the site by Nita, Coop and six

members of the Doble and Gannotti families. Coop filled out the form based on discussions with the applicant at the site. What work will be required and how best to do it were considered.

The committee agreed that when the applicant is satisfied with what is written on the form and indicates this satisfaction by his signature or initials, the committee thereby grants approval for the families to begin work.

Coop will deliver the *draft* application to Mr. Doble for his review and signature.

4) Work on the 1750 Farm House

Nita reported that she had communicated with contractor Gene Anderson for his invoice covering all work on the 1750 Farm House to date. He responded that the gutters have been hung and he will be sure to submit his invoice before June 31st, the end of the Fiscal Year.

5) Review Eagle Scout Projects

The group reviewed the status of four active Eagle Scout Projects.

<u>Responsibility</u>	<u>Project Name</u>	<u>Status</u>
Ethan Smith	Bulletin Board	HFC approved, Council approved*
Ethan Wiggins	Nature Signs	HFC approved, Council approved*
Nate Cherenzia	Dew Drop Inn Trail Footbridge	HFC approved, Council approved*
Jason Miner	Apple Tree Footbridge	Construction completed

* *Construction anticipated in fall 2017*

6) Member updates on Projects and Items for Group Discussion

Nita reported that funding for the demolition of town-owned structures is in the FY 2016/2017 Budget as a Capitol line item that will carry over to Fiscal Year 2017/2018, if it is not spent before June 31, 2017. The money will remain earmarked for any future demolition work.

Nita reminded the committee that according to a schedule in the Buon Appetito restaurant lease, rent for the property and building now automatically increases in July annually.

Nita also noted that the 1750 Farm House rent has remained the same since 2008 when the Hewitt Farm property was purchased. She suggested that the committee should consider whether an increase in rent would be reasonable, given the amount of work done on the structure and other factors. A brief discussion followed, but it was decided that all members were not present, plus everyone should take time to think about whether a rental change was appropriate.

Ed and Coop briefly described their plans for constructing a "light map" for use during NOSTO Fest 2017. The group discussed where it could be located at the Fest but no decision was forthcoming.

7) Priorities for July 10, 2017

- Update on progress of Scout and other volunteer projects
- Status of Picnic Grove Project

Respectfully submitted, Richard B. Cooper