

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

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

**Monday, July 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 3:13 p.m. at the Wheeler Library with members Brian Banker, Ellie Banker, Jack Brown, Dick "Coop" Cooper and Nita Kincaid present.

1) Approve of 07/10/2017 Meeting Minutes

Ellie motioned and Brian seconded to approve the 07/10/2017 Meeting Minutes. The motion carried.

2) Picnic Grove Project

The committee discussed the status of the Picnic Grove Project and noted that the families doing the work had donated a picnic table and four cement blocks on which to set it. Nita suggested that the committee offer the families a letter, which they could use to obtain an IRS deduction. Coop will draft a letter offering the letter and thanking the families for their work. All indications are that they are not yet done.

Committee members discussed various ways recognition could be given to groups and individuals who perform this type of volunteer work. A suggestion was made to post a permanent list of volunteers and their projects on the new Bulletin Board after Eagle Scout Ethan Smith installs it at the farm. The group will wait until then to make this decision.

3) NOSTO Fest 2017 Participation

Coop asked if he could postpone his report on the progress of constructing the Light Map until such time as Ed is present. The group agreed.

4) Member updates on Projects and Items for Group Discussion

Nita reported that weeds have once again "taken over" above and below the dam, and need to be trimmed. This is the Highway Department's responsibility. Nita will bring it to First Selectman Shawn Murphy's attention.

Brian asked that the border trees hanging into the 1750 Farm House Meadow be trimmed or removed before he starts brush hogging in the fall.

Nita distributed an email she had received from Mary Ann Ricker describing the Community Garden Association's plans for their annual Harvest Pot Luck event scheduled for

September 30th. The association is planning to eliminate poison ivy in the area and to clear the cement pad for use by the Morris Dancers who have been invited. Jack offered to help with this.

Nita reminded Coop that the Garden Club should receive a report from us that describes the status of the 2016 Discretionary Fund Award for trail sign replacement on Hewitt Farm. Coop will draft the report before the next meeting and forward it to Nita.

Jack reminded Coop not to remove the large tree that has fallen in the woods behind the Community Garden. Its wood has been promised to Paul Ames. Its removal is not urgent since it presents no hazard and is not blocking any trail.

The group asked Coop to communicate to Ethan Wiggins to remind him that the committee needs to know the exact design of the individual signs, what they will say, and where each will be located. A map of this would be preferred.

Coop will also contact Nathan Cherenzia for a copy of his signed BSA Application and tell him to inform the committee when he is ready to begin construction. This will enable the farmers to be notified before he drives over the hayfield. Coop will also contact Ethan Smith to give him photos of bulletin board features that the committee finds objectionable.

Nita informed the group that she has received all the materials used to create the Letterboxing Discovery Trail. Coop noted that the #2 box might already be missing because he cannot locate it. The trail apparently will require someone to monitor and maintain it.

Nita stated that no date has yet been set for the town's Budget Hearing. She has not received any communication from the Historical Society regarding Greene Gables or any word about Buon Appetito's intention to install solar panels behind the restaurant.

5) Priorities for August 7, 2017

- Status of Scout and other volunteer projects
- Status of Picnic Grove Project
- Status of Light Map for NOSTO FEST
- Status of Letterboxing Discovery Trail
- 1750 Farm House Issues

Respectfully submitted, Richard B. Cooper