

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

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

**Monday, August 7, 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 and Nita Kincaid present.

1) Approve of 07/24/2017 Meeting Minutes

Coop motioned and Brian seconded to approve the 07/24/2017 Meeting Minutes as amended. The motion carried.

2) Announcements and Public Comments

Nita announced that she will be running as a petitioning candidate for the position of Selectman in the Town of North Stonington. The group briefly discussed how her election to this position could affect her participation in the work of the Hewitt Farm Committee.

3) Completion of 1750 Farm House Repairs

Nita guided a video screen presentation of photos of the 1750 Farm House that she had taken. The photos showed the work performed by contractor Gene Anderson and his team to remove the back porch, fabricate and install a new storm door and rain gutter, and install a steel reinforcing beam in the basement. The work is now complete and the contractor's invoice paid with the FY2016/2017 Budget Line Item, which had been established for that purpose.

Members of the committee voiced appreciation of Gene and his team for the excellent work they did on the project.

4) Status Report: Use of NS Garden Club Award for Trail Signs

Nita showed the group a copy of the report that Coop had written relating the history of the Hewitt Farm's Trail Sign Replacement Program and status of the most recent work performed as a result of the Garden Club's 2016 Discretionary Fund Award. This document was sent to the Garden Club to meet a requirement of their grant program. Coop briefly described what the report contained, and how and why he had written it. Nita encouraged members to read it at their leisure.

5) NOSTO FEST Participation

Coop showed the group a full scale mock-up of the Light Map that is being proposed for construction as an exhibit at the up-coming NOSTO FEST 2017. Coop briefly explained how the exhibit would work but postponed discussion on specifics of its design until such time as committee member Ed Harasimowitz is present. There are still many decisions to be made.

Nita suggested that paper Trail Maps be handed out during the event to those individuals who “try their hand” at the Light Map. Possibly a token award could be given to individuals who get all the “buttons” correct.

6) Eagle Scout Projects

Coop reported that he had sent emails to the Scouts who are engaged in designing and constructing new Eagle Scout projects. He informed Ethan Wiggins and Ethan Smith that the committee is expecting a final presentation before they begin their construction. Coop also asked Nathan Cherenzia to notify the committee before he begins construction even though he already has approval to proceed.

Nita asked if the small flags placed along “That 'Dam' Trail” indicate where Ethan Wiggins plans to erect his Tree/Plant Markers. If so she noted, the trees where the flags are located appear to be so large and close to the trail that only their bark and not their leaves will be visible to anyone reading the marker. Committee members speculated that this could be intentional but deferred further discussion until they meet with Ethan during his final review.

Coop added that he had shown Ethan and his father where there are a lot of dead cedar trees. Ethan believes he can get as many posts as he needs from any one of these areas.

7) Picnic Grove Project

Nita showed video photos of the new picnic grove that is being constructed by the Doble and Gannotti families. Coop has been in touch with Arthur Doble who suggested the Town might consider purchasing a second or third picnic table to produce a family gathering or classroom environment. Arthur provided a web link to the retailer where the families purchased the table they donated to the site. The committee agreed to discuss this at a later date.

Nita reminded Coop to offer the families a letter, which they could use to obtain an IRS deduction.

8) Letterboxing Discovery Trail

Nita reported that she had received all the spare Letterboxing Discovery Trail materials from the Garden Club. Coop stated that he still has not located Box #2 and has moved one of the other boxes to the left a few feet to get it away from Poison Ivy. He also saw a big Black Snake near Box #1.

Coop cautioned that the boxes must be maintained or the project is deceiving the very people it is intended to inform. Coop said he would monitor the boxes on an interim basis but a permanent solution must be found soon.

9) Member Updates on Projects & Additional Items for Discussion

Jack asked if a sign could be placed on a large fallen tree behind the Community Garden to keep it from being cut up. The group agreed on a handmade sign that says "DO NOT CUT." Jack will make it.

Jack asked Coop to cut a narrow path from the existing trail to the bunny patch in the pine grove below the Handicapped Parking Area. Coop will do so.

Ellie asked if the future of the Corn Crib can be put on the Agenda for the next meeting. It is believed to be in bad and perhaps unstable condition but that is not known for sure. Brian asked if Gary Kincaid could take a look at it and offer some suggestions as to how to proceed. Ellie said, "It would be sad to watch it fall down. We cannot let that happen." Everyone agreed!

10) Priorities for August 21, 2017

- Eagle Scout and other volunteer projects
- Participation in NOSTO FEST 2017
- Letterboxing Discovery Trail maintenance
- Issues relating to the Corn Crib

Respectfully submitted, Richard B. Cooper