

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

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

**Monday, August 21, 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 3:05 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. Eagle Scout Candidate Ethan Wiggins and his father Adam Wiggins were also in attendance.

1) Eagle Scout Projects

Ethan Wiggins began his presentation by passing around a drawing of one of the 14 Tree/Plant Markers that he intends to erect along That "Dam" Trail. He will also locate one marker near a Hackberry tree along Hewitt Road. Each marker will be mounted on a cedar post set within the general proximity of the tree or plant it describes.

Markers will consist of laminated paper sheets on wooden backing and in a wooden frame. Text and color photos will present information on each marker. Ethan acknowledged that he might have difficulty setting some of the posts into the ground, particularly where there is dense root structure. He is currently searching for an alternative method of erecting them.

Nita asked Ethan to provide the committee with a copy of the sheets when he has completed their design. He agreed. She also noted that because most of the trees selected for identification are tall and located very close to the trail, it may be difficult to see their branches (buds, blossoms, leaves, fruit, nuts, etc.). Ethan responded that he will re-visit the locations he has chosen to determine if there could be a sight problem and would also consider including a picture of leaves. Nita also asked who will be responsible for maintaining the markers once they are installed. She was reassured by Adam Wiggins that Troop 71 plans to assume this responsibility.

Coop asked about the QR code which appears on each sign. Ethan explained that the code will route smart phones to the U.S. Department of Agriculture website for in-depth information about the tree or plant. In response to another question, Ethan showed on the *Hewitt Farm Trail Map* where he had obtained the cedar posts he will be using. He expects to have all work completed by the end of November.

Committee members thanked Ethan and his father for attending the meeting, explaining the project and responding to their questions.

2) Approve of 08/07/2017 Meeting Minutes

Coop motioned and Brian seconded to approve the 08/07/2017 Meeting Minutes as amended. The motion carried.

3) NOSTO FEST 2017 Participation

Referring to a list of suggested locations for the placement of LEDs on the Light Map, Coop described his reasons for selecting them and explained how the photos and buttons would be arranged. The group made a few changes in the selection of locations but agreed the placement of photos and buttons was good.

Ed and Coop will next complete the work-up and research a method whereby it can be displayed on a weatherproof board. Ed will design and fabricate the map's frame and legs.

4) Greene Gables

Nita reported that the Board of Selectmen is planning to bring the Greene Gables issue to a Town Meeting and Referendum. The board will assemble on August 22, 2017 to approve the Call for this meeting.

Nita also distributed a copy of "The North Stonington Historical Society's (NSHS) Plan for 'Greene Gables'" which was submitted to the Board of Selectmen on April 11, 2017. This document is the most recent communication from the Historical Society regarding the society's rationale for the stabilization and repair/restoration of Greene Gables, its proposed use, and its cultural and historical significance.

5) Member Updates on Projects & Additional Items for Discussion

Nita reported that the North Stonington Garden Club has sent their annual donation of \$100 to the Hewitt Farm Committee for use on Hewitt Farm. Coop will draft a "Thank You" letter for committee approval at the next meeting.

Ellie suggested posting a "CAN YOU HELP?" type of sign on the Corn Crib similar to the one that was successfully posted at Picnic Point. The sign would elicit help from a volunteer or volunteer group for the repair or restoration of the Corn Crib. It was mentioned that an organized campaign for such repair or restoration might be possible. The Corn Crib is one of the locations to be illuminated on the NOSTO FEST 2017 Light Map.

6) Priorities for September 11, 2017

- Status of Greene Gables
- Participation in NOSTO FEST 2017
- Letterboxing Discovery Trail maintenance
- Status of volunteer and Scout projects

Respectfully submitted, Richard B. Cooper