

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

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

**Monday, February 27, 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. Karen Askins and Sue Stephenson representing the North Stonington Garden Club also were present.

1) Update on the Garden Club's Letterboxing Discovery Trail Project

Nita introduced Karen Askins and Sue Stephenson from the North Stonington Garden Club who described the project that the club would like to undertake on Hewitt Farm this spring. If approved, the project would construct a "Letterboxing Discovery Trail" to guide participants over existing trails and encouraging them to search for letterboxes hidden at various stations along the way. There would be six numbered stations each containing a hidden letterbox.

Before starting on their adventure, participants would pick up a *Trail Log* containing a sheet of instructions and map showing each station's location. Inside each letterbox, participants would find a stamp pad and rubber stamp whose design visually represents something nearby. That "something" would be described and illustrated on a laminated card also in the letterbox.

To prove they had read the card and seen what it describes, participants would then stamp their *Trail Log* and move to the next station. Participants that complete the trail and have stamped all the boxes would become eligible to participate in an end-of-season drawing for a Garden Club prize.

Committee members appeared very enthusiastic over the project and after discussion and a few questions to the presenters, voted unanimously to approve the project (Ed motioned, Ellie seconded). Nita will keep the committee up-to-date on the progress of the project.

2) Approval of 02/06/2017 Meeting Minutes

Ed motioned and Brian seconded to approve the 02/06/2017 Meeting Minutes. The motion carried.

3) Plans for CT Trails Day

While discussing the Garden Club's Letterboxing Discovery Trail, it was suggested that if all components of the project are in place and if the trail is functioning as intended, it would provide an excellent opportunity for Hewitt Farm to participate in the Connecticut

Forest and Park Association's *CT Trails Day 2017* in June. The group agreed to apply to the association for inclusion in its brochure. Coop will author the write-up and send it to Nita for submission. Garden Club members will be encouraged to participate and possibly co-lead the walk.

4) Pros and Cons of Saving/Demolishing Greene Gables and/or the Cabin

Nita described her meeting with First Selectman Shawn Murphy to discuss the list of pros and cons of saving/demolishing Greene Gables and/or the Cabin that the committee compiled during its past several meetings. Shawn told her that he is presently soliciting information on the scope and cost of demolishing three structures in North Stonington of which Greene Gables and the Cabin are two.

Nita told Shawn that the Historical Society had provided some of the information to the committee that has been included in compiling its pros and cons list. Committee members believe that the Historical Society should be informed of actions that may be taken by the Town. As a result, Shawn agreed on having a meeting for such purposes with Frank Eppinger, President of the Historical Society, and Nita, representing the Hewitt Farm Committee. The meeting took place at Town Hall on February 24th and included additional members of the Historical Society.

The Historical Society suggested a possible plan for the building that they had recently developed. First Selectman Murphy and Nita advised the Historical Society that the next step to be taken is to go a town meeting to determine whether to save or demolish Greene Gables.

5) Member Updates on Projects and Additional Items for Discussion

Nita stated that she was waiting for a written quote from Gene Anderson on the cost of making the proposed repairs to the 1750 Farm House.

Jack reported that he had placed materials for constructing "bunny patches" in the vicinity of the Handicapped Parking Area and would soon be assembling them. He will also spread hay throughout the area to encourage the growth of a ground cover.

Coop stated he had no new information regarding any of the Eagle Scout projects.

7) Priorities for March 13, 2017

- Status of Greene Gables and the Cabin
- Update on Eagle Scout projects
- Work on the 1750 Farm House

Respectfully submitted, Richard B. Cooper