

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

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

**Monday, May 22, 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 3:09 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 05/08/2017 Meeting Minutes

Brian motioned and Jack seconded to approve the 05/08/2017 Meeting Minutes. The motion carried.

2) Work on the 1750 Farm House

Nita reported that work on the 1750 Farm House, which was scheduled for this spring is almost complete. She and Contractor Gene Anderson met at the house to discuss what remains to be completed. Mr. Anderson reported that one of the heating ducts had to be cut in order to install the new steel support beam. An HVAC repairman arrived during the meeting to check the work to be done and Mr. Anderson will make sure it is finished in a timely manner. This will be paid from the project's funds.

In addition, Nita reported that a coat of primer paint was applied to the outside of the area where the work was done. It will, however, require a finish coat sometime in the near future. Nita further noted that Mr. Anderson is in the process of building a new wooden storm door for the western side of the house. He has also arranged for fabrication and installation of storm water gutters above this area, since the beam rot was related to poor drainage.

Jack asked if any money earmarked for the project but remaining at the end of this fiscal year can be carried over to the next fiscal year. Nita said "yes" provided it is designated in advance for a specific purpose that it is part of the original project. Mr. Anderson will submit all invoices before the end of June.

When Nita met with Mr. Anderson, she asked if the fencing around the 1750 Farm House could be disassembled and the good pieces reinstalled across its front. Mr. Anderson thought this might be possible, but he pointed out a more immediate problem related to rotting on a portion of the porch located on the northeastern side of the house. He said this could and should be addressed soon.

Nita concluded the discussion by informing the group that the leak in the kitchen sink has been repaired and that the plumber who did the work did not report any other plumbing problems.

3) Ethan Smith's Eagle Scout Project

Nita informed the group that she had forwarded Coop's recommendation for the dimensions of the outdoor bulletin board to Ethan Smith. These recommendations were obtained by physically measuring one of the signs that the group liked.

4) Status of 1st Grade Field Trip

Coop showed an email he had received from Jen Raggon describing the activities planned for the 1st Grade Field Trip on May 24th. All agreed the planned walks should be conducted similar to last year with Coop leading them and Nita coordinating them. Upward of 60 students are expected for three walks from the dam to the Canoe & Kayak Launch Area.

Jack briefly described the Bunny Patches for explaining to the 1st Graders if time permits.

5) Buon Appetito Request for Solar Panel Installation

Nita described what she had learned about Petrit Marku's plans to install solar panels in the hayfield behind the Buon Appetito restaurant. She reported that she and First Selectman Murphy met with representatives of the company that would define and do such a project. They discovered that more information on the project was needed before the idea could be pursued any further. Based upon what is known, however, it appears there may be numerous obstacles in the way.

6) Participation in Connecticut Forest and Parks "2017 Trails Day"

Nita and Coop will meet with Jack sometime before June 4th so Jack can provide input on some of the projects to be showcased on Trails Day.

7) Member updates on Projects and Items for Group Discussion

Jack stated that Paul Ames agreed to cut up a very large tree, which has fallen over the trail behind the Community Garden.

8) Priorities for June 5, 2017

- Lessons learned from 1st Grade and CT Trails Day walks
- Update on progress of Scout and other volunteer projects
- Progress with construction of the Letterboxing Trail

Respectfully submitted, Richard B. Cooper