

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

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

**Monday, June 5, 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 Ellie Banker, Dick "Coop" Cooper, Ed Harasimowitz and Nita Kincaid present.

1) Approve of 05/22/2017 Meeting Minutes

Ellie motioned and Nita seconded to approve the 05/22/2017 Meeting Minutes. The motion carried.

2) Work on the 1750 Farm House

Nita reviewed the work that was recently completed by the contractors on the 1750 Farm House and described what work remains. Contractor Gene Anderson plans to submit his invoice before June 31st, the end of this Fiscal Year.

3) The First Grade Field Trip

Nita described the events of the day, which included sampling water at the dam, a trail walk along the shoreline of the pond, snacks at the boat launch picnic table, and a visit by some friendly goats. Fun was had by all 60 plus who attended.

Coop requested feedback from teachers and/or parents re: his presentation during the trail walk. Nita will inquire of event organizer, Jen Raggon.

4) Connecticut Forest and Parks "2017 Trails Day"

Nita described the Trails Day event, which turned out a little differently than what was planned. Advertised as an "Educational Walk" in the Connecticut Forest and Park's *2017 Trails Day* brochure, the event became more educational than physical when its sole participant expressed a greater interest in the history and operation of Hewitt Farm than for hiking.

Coop and Nita both agreed that participation in the event every year is very valuable if only because it helps us to focus on putting the farm in good order for the summer season.

Following the event, Nita and Coop walked down the Dew Drop Inn Trail to view where Eagle Scout Candidate Nathan Cherenzia plans to build his footbridge. Nita and Coop both believe that, based on the location of the site, some very clever engineering will be required.

5) Letterboxing Discovery Trail Project

Coop reported that there are now two white wooden boxes, which were installed by the North Stonington Garden Club to distribute the Letterboxing Discovery Trail maps. One is located at the dam next to the Trail Map box, and the other is located near the Welcome Sign. Coop showed the group a copy of the map and Nita explained how letterboxing "works".

Nita also noted that she had spoken to Karen Askins regarding the Garden Club's concern over poison ivy in the area of the letterboxes. Coop will investigate to see what can be done.

6) That "Dam" Trail Picnic Grove

Nita reported that she had heard from the Girl Scout Troop who had offered to construct a picnic grove on That "Dam" Trail and that they had informed her that they will be unable to do it, given the small size of the troop. Coop followed up that he is in communication with two families who are interested in the project. He will schedule a meeting with them to view the site and discuss their possible involvement.

7) Buon Appetito Request for Solar Panel Installation

Nita related the communication she had had with First Selectman Murphy regarding Petrit Marku's request to install solar panels behind the Buon Appetito restaurant. She reported that no conclusions or decisions have been made.

8) Member updates on Projects and Items for Group Discussion

Nita added that while visiting the farm during the above events, it became clear to her that the area of the Butterfly Garden will certainly be a perfect location for Eagle Scout Candidate Ethan Smith's Bulletin Board project.

9) Priorities for June 19, 2017

- Update on progress of Scout and other volunteer projects

Respectfully submitted, Richard B. Cooper