

Hooper Institute Committee meeting: July 9, 2019

Present: Heather Brady, Eloise Clark, Elaine Heleen, Rebecca Whippie

High School Students: Pearl Aldrich, Anya Bierweiler-Franks, Drew Buswell, Grace Conety, Mamta Dey, Natalie Ferland, Kyle Fisher, Luke Gay, Edward Gowdy, Enrique Ingram Mendez, James Ronning, Mary Ronning, Amelia Sethi, Izzy Walz, Foster Willett, Hudson Willett

College Students: Elaina Badders, Maddie Beaudry, Emily Britton, George Gowdy, Chelsea Patch

High School students: Each student speaks about their varied job experience: landscaping, netting grapes from the depredations of wild turkeys, thinning peaches so the trees don't die, learning about turf management, seeing operations on pets at the veterinary hospital as well as surgery for a twisted abomasum on a cow at its farm, sorting recyclables and painting at the recycling center, hauling bale after bale of hay on the horse farm, picking blueberries and weeding an organic vegetable farm's produce, working with younger children at the Hooper camp, leading older children at Adventure Camp and guiding woodworkers with their multiple projects. Students enjoyed socializing with one another and trading stories.

College students: Five recipients of the George L. Hooper Scholarship reported to the Hooper Committee about their college experiences. George Gowdy has just graduated from high school and looks forward to studying environmental science and history at St. Lawrence University. Chelsea Patch will be transferring to U. of Vermont after a year at Tufts. She hopes to study more agriculturally related subjects and participate with the other agricultural students. She thanks the Hooper Scholarship for enabling her to make this transfer. Elaina Badders has completed her first year at U. of New Hampshire majoring in conservation biology with a focus on animal behavior. This summer she is working for the Loon Preservation Committee as a field observer of loons in the Monadnock region and beyond. She kayaks almost daily and has had the chance to band loons and chicks. Emily Britton has a detailed poster presentation of her research work on the effects of Leptospirosis on sheep by studying blood samples. She made a significant discovery that will be published in a research paper by her professor. She is also very active with the agricultural community at school. She will be a senior next year at U. Mass--Amherst and is planning to apply to veterinary medicine school. Maddie Beaudry will also be a senior next year at Cornell University. She has taken a variety of courses in the agricultural field focusing on dairy management. This summer is in working for the Cheshire County Conservation District managing the Keene Farmer's Market as well as two other food security programs they sponsor.

Program discussion: After a short break allowing the students to leave and socialize outdoors, the Hooper Committee meets. We discuss the impressive work the college students are doing. We are extremely sorry and disappointed more adults did not attend this fun and inspirational meeting. There was no representation from the Hooper Scholarship Committee or the Trustees of the Hooper Trust. However, we were pleased by the good turnout of high school teens, with 16 of the 22 participants attending.

Friends of Hooper Institute: FoHI received a \$1,500 grant from the NH Charitable Foundation. It was from the Neilsen Family Fund. They have given FoHI \$3,000 for the past two summers and were not expected to give anything this year. The other grant Eloise applied for from the Rapid Grant program was denied as these grants are not intended to fund salaries, even for seasonal high school workers. However, FoHI is now enrolled as a 501(c)3 with them, so future applications should be easier to make.

August meeting: Tuesday, August 13th is the next date for a Hooper Institute Committee meeting. The new director should have begun the day before so the HI Committee should meet. The Trustees of the Hooper Trust should have their new team of Committee members in place by then as well. Meeting time is 7:00 PM at Hooper Hall.

Submitted by,

Eloise Clark, Director until August 10, 2019