

Land Management Committee Meeting Minutes – January 17, 2007

The committee met Tuesday, January 16, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. in the Sexton's building at Maple Grove Cemetery. Craig McDonald, Laura Mickelson, Rob Schaadt, Andy McCall, Judy Preston, Grace Gordon and Mickey Smith were present.

Grace Gordon presented a brief description of the Spring Valley parcel as a part of the Licking County Land Trust. Though transfer of ownership has not yet been completed, she reported that the grant, as written, will restrict use of the area to passive recreation. The hope is to establish this area as an Environmental Center for education purposes, in an effort to preserve its historical character.

Logging, as an option for some areas, was discussed. The group concluded that logging, generally, should be for the health of property rather than for profit. There was a question regarding the trees that were timbered at Salt Run. Craig will look into how the moneys gained from that incident are being used.

There was a suggestion that soil analysis results be shared by those who lease township land for agricultural use. This could be a way to control the quality of soil being leased. It was also suggested that the group work with the Granville Rec Commission to see in what ways we might be able to help meet their needs for space.

Discussion became focused on developing a philosophical sense of the purpose of the committee and how it would go about its work. It was decided that the original purpose of accumulating open space, as presented in the May, 2004 edition of ***The Record*** would be the foundation of the group's work. Based on those boundaries, the following precepts were proposed*:

1. The group will develop its recommendations to the township trustees based on potential uses of each property as related to its cultural, geological and social factors.
2. Both short term and long term goals for action would be established for each piece of land.
3. Historical usage of each parcel will be considered in the recommendations developed for its short and long term use.
4. An attempt will to be made to match all recommendations with what the community understood to be the function and purpose of the open space acquisition program when they voted approval.

*Further development of purpose will depend on relevant law.

The trustees have asked the group to review Spring Valley, Salt Run Park, and the Pohm and Quisenbury properties first. The group set a goal of visiting all four properties as soon as possible. We will meet at Laura's Mickelson's home on Sunset Drive January 28 at 2:00 to do a walking tour of the Salt Run and Spring Valley areas.

At this point, the Salt Run area will receive the group's primary attention. Cleaning up the trees that were topped; how to dispose of them and how to develop access from Spring Valley will be early points of action.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 30 at 7:30 p.m. in the Sexton's Building at Maple Grove Cemetery.

Respectively submitted by Mickey Smith