

Granville Township Land Management Committee
Minutes – meeting May 24, 2007; 7:30 p.m. Sexton’s Building, Maple Grove Cemetery

Attendees: Craig McDonald, Judy Preston, Grace Gordon, Laura Mickelson, Greg Dixon, Rob Schaadt, and Mickey Smith.

Minutes of the May 10 meeting were corrected and approved.
Greg and Laura distributed copies of the information flyer they had distributed to residents of the Spring Valley / Salt Run areas. Mickey will send a copy to Wes Sargent.

The use of blazes to mark the trail at Spring Valley/Salt Run was discussed and approved. Craig will bring in options for the committee to review before a final selection is made.

The high school work day on May 18, 2007 was very positive and resulted in a lot of progress being made on clearing and improving the trail at Spring Valley/Salt Run. Measurements for potential bridges were taken and will serve as basis for later work. At this point several stacked stone structures were built to serve as means of crossing the creek.

Rob suggested we build on this student interest for the trail and form a Trail Club for about 15-20 students through the Granville Recreation organization.

Greg reported that the village has agreed to include any news/information we want published for the public on their web site. Judy reported that the township trustees did not respond to her request for using their site for news and other information but she will continue to pursue this source.

Grace reported that the title to the Spring Valley parcel was transferred to the Township on May 23, 2007. She said that it is her understanding that the township may close access to Spring Valley until the pool area has been cleared of water and concrete. No official word has been received as of this date. Grace also expressed concern about how to maintain clear communication among the groups involved with the management of Spring Valley. For example, though the township has title to the property, The Licking County Land Trust holds stipulations for use of the property, and the Land Management Committee has been entrusted with responsibilities for recommending best uses for it. In an effort to stabilize communications we will share our intentions for use of the land with the Licking County Land Trust.

Grace also shared a management plan written by a Denison University EcoManagement Class for the Spring Valley / Salt Run parcels. She will send an electronic copy to each member of the committee.

The possible township decision to temporarily close access to Spring Valley may cause us to cancel or change the Community Work Day in June and rethink it as an “experience

Spring Valley” day for the autumn. More discussion will come as we learn of the township’s plans.

Laura suggested we ask the township to mow around the farmed acreage at Salt Run. The land owner who had been mowing the walk path will not be able to continue doing it. The suggestion will be presented to the trustees.

Craig and Grace will work together to develop a short-term goal list for the Spring Valley / Salt Run parcels to be given to both the Township Trustees and the Licking County Land Trust. The list will include:

1. mowing the walking path around the Salt Run farming parcel;
2. a plan to regularly clear trash in the areas;
3. a system by which access to Spring Valley is closed at the end of the day; possibly including signs at both entrances listing hours open, ruling of no vehicles, etc.

Craig and Grace will continue to study the goal list and report to the committee.

Rob reported he had talked with Bill Laughlin of the Licking County Soil and Water Department about a possible farm management plan for township lands being used for farming. Mr. Laughlin is willing to develop a Best Management plan for each farmed parcel along with acceptable alternatives. It would be our intention that the trustees would accept such a plan and use it as part of the contractual agreement with farmers using township owned land. Before authoring Mr. Laughlin to develop such a plan we need to determine Trustees willingness to consider it as a condition for renting farming land. Rob will put together a proposal for the trustees to see if they would be acceptable to such an idea.

The next meeting was set for June 21, 2007 at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Mickey Smith