

Granville Township Land Management Committee
August 16, 2007 meeting minutes

In attendance: Greg Dixon, Rob Schaadt, Craig McDonald, Judy Preston, Laura Mickelson, Mickey Smith.

Minutes of the June meeting were approved and will be forwarded to Wes Sargent and Candi Moore.

Craig told us Grace Gordon has taken a new position in Cuyahoga County and will not be able to continue as a member of this committee. We will miss her and wish her well !!!

A discussion of the field area at Salt Run resulted in brainstorming possible options for its use in the future. Ideas of continuing its current use as a farming parcel, community gardens, a restoration prairie and parking area for access to the trails in Salt Run / Spring Valley were mentioned. Craig suggested we may want to begin to consider long-term plans for both Salt Run and Spring Valley.

Craig reported on his meeting with Wes Sargent Friday, August 10. They discussed several things:

1. Craig had sent the proposed Land Management plan for review but Wes had no response to it by their meeting Friday.
Some of the leases for farmers using township land are expiring over the next couple of months. We will request knowing when the Kennedy/Rader field lease is due; we would like to know if the management plan proposal could be part of the new lease.
2. Craig told us that Mr. Sargent reported bathrooms at Spring Valley are operational; some vandalism has been noted. The township is reworking the house as a rental and the pool house is being re-roofed. The trustees are also interested in talking to Rob about working up the upper level of the pool house as living quarters. It is hoped that having renters on the site would minimize the vandalism problem.
3. Wes requested the committee review the Spring Valley parcel for ideas on how to deal with the landscaping around the house and other buildings.
4. We have trustees' approval for purchase of trail blazes. Craig will also ask about purchasing pick-axes and other trail maintenance tools. We should be able to store such tools in a shed on the Spring Valley site. The committee also decided to request and place trash cans on site.
5. The platform tennis courts are still a question being handled by the Licking County Land Trust group.

Trail work has become a rewarding project for area young people. Craig told us students will go to Spring Valley this autumn to work on trails as part of an Adventure Club project. High school students also will work on the trails as part of their National Honor Society activities. An Eagle Scout has contacted Craig about working on the trail as part of his requirements. The committee made several suggestions that would be suitable for Eagle Scout projects: stairways, bridges, trail markings, maps, benches and an interpretive walk signs. It was mentioned that local service clubs such as Kiwanis and Rotary might be sources of additional funding for materials.

Some other work being considered for the trails includes building water bars to divert water in an effort to maintain the stability of the trails.

The committee will hold its next meeting Thursday, September 6, 2007 at 6:00 pm at Spring Valley. We will review the area for landscaping recommendations.

Respectfully submitted: Mickey Smith