

Granville Township Land Management Committee
Minutes – Meeting of December 17, 2008

Present: Craig McDonald, Roger Dunifon, Laura Mickelson, Greg Dixon, Rob Schaadt, Judy Preston and Mickey Smith. Guests, Wes Sargent and Luke Fergang. Minutes of the November meeting were read, corrected and approved. They will be forwarded to the trustees and members of the Licking Land Trust Board.

Luke Fergang, an Eagle Scout candidate, presented his proposed project for work at Spring Valley Nature Preserve. The project, meant to meet requirements for Eagle Scout, consists of clearing two trails already mapped and the construction and placing of three to four benches. Luke informed us that funding for the project has been secured. He hopes to have the project completed by spring / summer of 2009. His deadline for completion is November, 2009.

The committee gave Luke its approval for the project. He was told that once he has Scout endorsement we will send the proposal to the trustees for their approval.

Wes Sargent expressed his appreciation of the committee's work with the Spring Valley Nature Preserve and encouraged us to continue our efforts managing other township green space lands. He suggested we consider a plaque for the Preserve which would describe the historical development of the park.

Craig suggested we reconsider approving the development of a camping site at Spring Valley by Derek Esh. Craig questions the wisdom of placing the site there at this time. Others of the committee expressed concerns for it and agreement was reached to deny approval of the camping site. Derek's project plan will be adjusted to accommodate both his scouting requirement and Spring Valley needs. The new plan will include three kiosks; one at the park entrance, one at the start of the Proposal Tree trail and one at the Spring Valley Road approach to the new Kiwanis Sugar Bush.

Craig also reported progress of other student projects being considered for Spring Valley. He informed us also that funding for kiosks and signage is available through Denison.

At this point, Rob assumed chair of the committee. An expression of thanks was given to Craig for his dedicated effort in initiating our committee and its work.

Rob told us that Don Lewis was contacted by the Columbus Dispatch regarding the planned Sugar Bush. An article will appear in the Columbus paper soon.

Rob suggested we, along with its renter, Dan VanNess, do a site walk of the Quisenberry plot. Of particular interest is the question of plot boundaries and of any trees suitable for harvesting. Rob is especially concerned about the green space portion of the plot. Sunday, January 4, 2009 at 2:00 p.m. was set for the walk through.

Rob asked for sub-committee interest. The following were agreed:

Parks/Trails: Craig, Greg and Roger
Ag properties: Rob, Greg, Laura and Craig
Development Rights: Judy, Rob, Laura
Public Relations: Roger, Judy, Mickey and Greg.

There was a discussion about developing an e-mail data base as a means of communicating with members of the community. It was agreed that we would want this contact to be in conjunction with the Township website. Mickey will talk with Norm to see if this would be agreeable with the Trustees and how it could be done.

The next meeting was set for Tuesday, January 20, 2009 at 7:30 p.m.

Submitted by Mickey Smith