

Granville Township Land Management Committee –
September 24, 2009 minutes

Present: Greg Dixon, Roger Dunifon, Rob Schaad, Judy Preston, Laura Mickelson and Grace Gordon

Minutes of the August 25, 2009 meeting were approved. Future minute approval via email was discussed. Norm Kennedy indicated that this would be acceptable. Members present were in favor but wanted to check with Mickey Smith before proceeding as she normally handles the minutes and no one wanted to place any extra burden on her.

Grace Gordon was appointed to replace Craig McDonald. We were happy to welcome Grace back.

Kiwanis Maple Grove - Rob relayed a report from Don Lewis. They lost a few trees but overall were very happy with the growth. There are more than enough trees in the nursery to replace the lost ones. They plan on fertilizing in the Spring as they noticed a type of weed which indicates poor soil conditions. They have done a third mowing.

Scout Bridge – The span is up and the approach has been cleared. The steps and railings still need to be installed. The original natural crossing is still in place.

Scout Benches – The Girl Scouts hope to start this weekend (9/26), they will contact Greg to find the 3 locations on the Salt Run parcel. A neighbor will allow them to use her driveway as an access point for the bench on the Ridge trail.

Bath House - Rob met with Olivia Aguilar, Lesa Miller, Doug Spieles and Tim Howarth to inspect the bath house. Tim estimated a cost somewhere between \$50,000 to \$75,000 to remodel depending on the scope of the project. We will wait for the results of the Denison University Practicum course this Fall for further discussion. The class will study concepts and layouts of Nature Centers around central Ohio to see how they might be applicable to Spring Valley Nature Center. The purpose of the course this year will be to develop plans for a Nature Center at Spring Valley and identify potential users and possible funding.

Thank You letters – Letters were drafted and sent out to all the scouts who have completed projects. A letter to Matt Miller will be sent as soon as his bridge is complete. Judy will send the draft to Rob so he has it when the project is done. Laura drafted a letter to the editor of the Granville Sentinel to publicly thank all the scouts and others who have done projects at SVNP. She will add Matt Miller to the letter and send it to the committee for review before sending it to the Sentinel.

Scout Project Funding – The subject of scout funding was addressed as two of

the scouts have asked about assistance. Rob has talked to Fred Abraham to see if funding was available from the 2006 Salt Run logging money. Fred was going to look into it.

Web Page / Pictures – Norm Kennedy has been given the file with the Sugar Bush planting pictures and will get it linked on the township web page soon. Judy is still working on the volunteer project page – still needs pictures. We would like to see an article in the Sentinel featuring these projects. Judy will get the pictures to the paper. Laura will draft something for the Township Record.

SVNP Rules – Rules were again discussed. We made some changes to the wording and will send them back to Norm.. After they get approval from the proper authorities, they will be posted in the kiosk at SVNP. We also discussed that the map in the kiosk needs some modification as it can be confusing.

Memorial Trees – A request for a Memorial Tree was made by someone in the community to Norm Kennedy. After discussion it was decided that a planting plan needed to be in place and approval from the Licking Land Trust before anything should be planted. We are in favor of the concept of Memorial tree planting. We will check with LLT as previously they had indicated they had or would have a landscape plan for Spring Valley. Norm also felt that the care and warranty of trees should be clearly spelled out if we were to have memorial trees at Spring Valley. As an alternative, the Kiwanis have memorial groves at the Salt Run, “Sugar Bush” which may be an option. Community members could contact the Kiwanis for more information.

SVNP Litter – The litter is still a problem. Fred Abraham is stopping by on his lunch hour and picking up trash. There will be a lock on the chain across the access to the lower shelter house. Hopefully this will help to keep people from driving back to the shelter houses. We discussed the possibility of gates at the park entrance as an additional measure. Also once the rules are in place someone, likely Norm or one of the Trustees could talk to the LC Sheriff and see about regular patrols to help cut down on problems.

Gordon Property – We have been asked to do an inspection and inventory of the newly acquired 35.207 Acre Gordon Property adjoining Spring Valley. We will walk the property on October 18 at 1:30, meeting at SVNP. Our goal will be to provide recommendations for future uses/improvements to the Trustees. Grace is very familiar with the property and will lead us on the inspection.

Next meeting was set for Tuesday October 20, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. at the Sexton House at Maple Grove Cemetery.

Submitted by Judy Preston sitting in for Mickey Smith