

GRANVILLE TOWNSHIP LAND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

September 20, 2011 Minutes

ATTENDING: Judy Preston, Grace Gordon, Roger Dunifon, Greg Dixon, Laura Mickelson, Richard Kinsley, and Mickey Smith

GUESTS: Danielle Isaacson; Andrew Monnin; Marc Monnin

MEETING MINUTES: Minutes of the August 11, 2011 meeting were approved by e-mail and submitted to the Township Trustees and Representatives of the Licking Land Trust.

PUBLIC RELATIONS: Guest, Danielle Isaacson attended the meeting as a student of the Denison University class, Environment Dispute Resolution. She has chosen to study Spring Valley as a class project and talked with us about the ways in which the Land Management Committee relates to the park.

PARKS AND TRAILS:

* SVNP Port-0-John: Andrew Monnin of BSA Troop 65 presented an Eagle Scout project plan outlining a 3-sided privacy wall for the port-o-john at SVNP. It included 2 options, walls of dog-ear slats or lattice work. After presenting his design and responding to questions from the committee, three suggestions were made:

1) Andrew should contact the port-o-john company to determine if or how the design needs to be adjusted to accommodate cleaning needs.

2) Andrew could contact the Township Trustees, Licking Land Trust, Granville Recreation Commission and/or local service clubs for possible funding.

3) that he consider adding a fourth wall for the project.

The committee will investigate any site location plans for the port-o-john and select use of slats or lattice for the walls. Andrew and the committee will continue to monitor the project plan by e-mail.

*Trail Map: Denison University is allowing Grace to borrow a GPS and Denison's GIS program to make a new trail map for Spring Valley. She will use the GIS lab at the university to develop a new map of the trails for an updated SVNP brochure she hopes can be ready by Spring, 2012.

*SVNP stream restoration: Work contracted by the Township Trustees has begun. The dirt will be carried away and used as fill at various sites within the township. Some of the dirt was used to level the old bath house foundation.

Mark Petardi property: Several fallen trees on and bordering the property had given Mr. Petardi concern. Township personnel and representatives of the Licking Land Trust met with Mr. Petardi and made arrangements to deal with the problem. Mr. Petardi expressed his pleasure with the expedient way in which his concern was resolved.

*Parks & Trails Tools: The tools requested by the committee have been purchased by the

trustees. Arrangements are being made to store the tools at the Township garage.

*Sugar Bush: Greg reported contacting Don Lewis about the annual report of the grove's condition. The report indicated that the bush has been mowed twice this year and that one more mowing is planned for this Fall. Mike Flood of the Kiwanis has initiated a maintenance plan to help improve the soil. It will begin in the early Spring with a feeding fertilization of each seedling. The Kiwanis will hold a work party on October 22 to replace dead seedlings and re-stake and inventory the grove. Don estimated that about ten percent of the seedlings will need to be replaced this year. The report also said that three "sizeable" maple trees had been donated by George Fackler and were planted near the Spring Valley Drive parking location.

AGRICULTURE: Judy reported that the Quisenberry property lease will be amended to reflect a survey finding that part of the property is owned by Kendal of Granville. Income from the farming of that portion will be allocated to Kendal.

DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS:

*Smith Conservation Easement Split: Smiths would like to sell 1/2(approximately 20 acres) of the property to the Saunders (neighbors to the south). The current easement does not allow for lot splits (sec 2h). Trustee Dan VanNess has been in contact with the county prosecutor who indicated that the easement could be amended if all parties were in agreement. Dan asked the Granville Land Management Committee for its input. The situation was discussed at the September 20, 2011 meeting of the LMC. Feelings were mixed and several issues were identified:

1. If the split is allowed, access to the land should be legally defined. There would need to be an easement through the new owner's current property.

2. The land would have to be surveyed and the legal description in the easement would need to be modified to show two parcels. The cost for that should not fall to the township.

3. Concerns about the ramifications of amending the easement were expressed. In this case the use of the land would not change. It is farmland and currently there are no buildings on the property. Furthermore the easement does not allow for any new ones.

4. However, amending one easement opens the door to amending other easements. This is the serious issue for the committee. All parties have to agree to any amendments, which is a good check on things. But as time passes and elected officials change will the original intent of the easements be upheld? There is an unstated social contract with the residents of Granville Township regarding how and for what the Open Space funds are spent. Once a deal has been made, it is questionable as to whether or not it can or should be changed. The answer clearly depends on the situation. Perhaps some guidelines for amendments should be in place before any are allowed.

*Conservation Easements: Organization of Data: Data for each property will consist of:

- * a copy of the Conservation Easement
- * an aerial view of the property
- * an On Tract Summary Information report

* an uncompleted/baseline Property Inspection and Monitoring Report

We will begin inspecting properties on the Sundays of November, 2011.

OTHER:

*Open Space criteria: Roger reviewed for us the three categories of land by which the Open Space Committee would decide which properties it would recommend to the Trustees for Green Space purchases. The committee agreed such a structured, objective study of land in the district would be a positive step for this program.

*Beckman property update: The Trustees have resolved the fence issue with Mr. Beckman and he will plant the trees as requested.

*Columbia Gas blowoff valve: The request by Columbia Gas to purchase an easement on the Quisenberry property in order to install a blow off valve has been finalized. The valve is expected to be placed this week.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting was set for October 17, 2011 at 7:30 pm.

Submitted by: Mickey Smith