

GRANVILLE TOWNSHIP LAND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
MINUTES – November 11, 2019

ATTENDING: Andy McCall, Emily McCall, Judy Preston, and Greg Dixon

GUESTS: Bryn Bird (Trustee)

MEETING MINUTES – The meeting minutes on Feb. 25, 2019 were recorded by Judy Preston, approved by email.

PARK AND TRAILS: As reported by Greg Dixon, a large beech tree fell on Valley Trail of Spring Valley Nature Preserve and was cleaned up by an anonymous citizen.

Andrew McCall reported a rope hanging from the Robert's Ridge trail cliff (near first creek crossing from the main entrance). Greg will investigate.

Greg asked Bryn Bird if there was a 72-hour freeze before any action could be made in the preserve – Bryn said this could be disregarded.

Ned Roberts Fund – Greg reported that the Eagle Scout project of a bridge across the 2nd creek crossing was too big of an undertaking for Max Taylor. The amount raised in memory of Ned is thus untouched. It is to go for a project in Spring Valley.

AGRICULTURE: Bryn notified everyone that the property adjacent to the new Granville Service building/training facilities are going to be used for dog training for the police force. Also, on this property, many trees will be planted along the drive from a fund left by a now deceased member of the First Presbyterian Church.

Bryn said another 13 of the total 500 trees will be planted in the Maple Grove Cemetery, as a huge tree in the cemetery had to be cut down after its canopy had died. The new Chapel/Columbarium is expected to be completed within a couple weeks.

DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS: Folders from those attending were collected by Emily.

Group 1 – Jeffery Williams, Homestead Farm, Joseph & Therese White, Wolfe (T4, T5, T6, & T39):

J. & T. White had asked Greg about building a shelter house by the ponds for weddings, though, when they approached Bryn they asked about splitting the easement and how it would be possible for Joseph to still have access to the agriculture buildings. Bryn confirmed that the construction of one building was in their easement, so that was no problem, but in her discussion with the White family she told them that they are only permitted one split of a certain acreage. Bryn strongly suggested they seek legal counsel.

There were no other issues from other easements in this group.

Group 2 – Row Farms, Frances Robb & Lucinda Smith, Bruce Farms, Wayde Gutridge & Dixon (T1, T2, T3, T7, & T8) There were no issues in this group.

Group 3 – Tataranowicz, Granville Township (T32 & T33) There were no issues in this group.

Group 4 – Smith & Forni (T20 & T21)

Judy Preston brought up that on the Smith property, they are working to eradicate some non-native plant species and that this did involve some use of pesticides. There is no issue with this small application as pesticide use is allowed for the easement.

Group 5 – Golf course (T38) There were no issues in this group.

Group 6 – Breymaier There were no issues for this conservation easement.

TRUSTEE UPDATE: Bryn said there are no signs fabricated yet, but that we do have the money. She noted that the Breymaier property is one such place that needs a sign. Unfortunately, this is the third time the sign has been taken as a souvenir.

At this time, it was requested for a line to be added to the “Easement Review” form to ask if the easement holders would like a sign.

Bryn announced that the O’Neil property off Route 37 will soon be added to the township easements. It will not include some acreage around a long-time leased house nor that surrounding a horse-related business. Emily asked who would like to attend the official conservation easement assessment of the property and Judy, Greg, & Andy volunteered. This activity will be put on a slight hold while O.D.O.T. widens the road on the Eastside (O’Neil side) in order to allow for a safer route for trucks turning right onto Hwy. 16 (Eastbound).

Bryn made us aware of “Sunshine Laws,” where our meeting dates have to be made aware to the public as they are welcome to attend our meetings. Everyone agreed that the easiest way to do this was to tell Bryn and she would read the selected date out at the Township meeting (then the date would be in their minutes) and the Granville Sentinel would print it for their readership not in attendance.

Finally, as we have 2,000 Acres in easements, Bryn is researching how we can create a land trust and have legal backing should some person not agree to the terms of an easement. She will be talking with a coalition of land trusts near Yellow Springs, OH.

OTHER: In December, the 3-year terms for Judy, Emily, & Dick are up. Judy and Emily both agreed to stay on for another 3 years. Dick will be asked in an email.

NEXT MEETING: Those attending are checking their calendars for a date in February. Andy proposed Mon., Feb. 10, 2020.