

Land Management Committee Meeting Minutes
March 8, 2007

The Land Management Committee met March 8, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. in the Sexton's building of Maple Grove Cemetery. Present were Greg Dixon, Rob Schaadt, Craig McDonald, Judy Preston, Grace Gordon, Laura Mickelson and Mickey Smith.

Minutes of the February 20, 2007 meeting were approved. Mickey will submit them to Wes Sargent of the Township Trustees. Craig presented a set of short-term goals for the Salt Run / Spring Valley parcels. The group approved the goals and suggested some of them be addressed by the township in time for the Earth Day trail work planned for April 22.

A New Albany Middle school teacher has met with Grace and expressed an interest in having their students work with our trail building activities. Grace said that funding opportunities from the Green Team and Denison University Recycling Program may provide a total of about \$500 to purchase tools useful for clearing trails within the township properties. Momentum is building for interaction among Granville and New Albany Middle School students and the Denison Green Team to develop secure trails in the area. Focus at this time would be on the main trail within Salt Run / Spring Valley. Grace will set a time to walk and design trail work to be done as the Earth Day activity for the parcel.

The committee discussed specific trail building needs within the Salt Fork / Spring Valley parcels. Craig will develop a set of trail specifications. These specifications would be modeled after Department of Forestry guidelines and become standard trail descriptions for the township.

Craig told the committee that Wes Sargent has asked us to confirm the safety of tapping maple trees in the cemetery. The Kiwanis group of Granville has been doing the tapping for many years and there has been a question of the effect of the tapping on trees. Grace will contact an appropriate arborist for an opinion.

Grace reported she has had no response from the trustees for guidelines on use of lands as determined by type of funding used to purchase them.

Rob reported a meeting he had with an individual who farms township properties. They discussed the possibility of multi-year leases to replace the current short-term leases. Multi-year leases may be an incentive for improving, fertilizing, etc. the soil. He also said we may want to consider suggesting the township include regular soil testing as part of any lease offered farmers. Rob suggested we ask the trustees what the current policy is for the length and conditions of leases.

Discussion of the open field in the Salt Run included talk about its rough condition, the township offer to work a perimeter trail and selection of crop to be sown.

We will meet at Judy Preston's home on March 18 at 2:30 for a walk of the Pohm and Quisenberry properties. The next regular meeting will be March 22, 2007 at the Maple Grove sexton's building.

Respectively submitted: Mickey Smith