

Granville Township Land Management Committee
Minutes – June 21, 2007

Present: Craig McDonald, Rob Schaadt, Greg Dixon, Laura Mickelson, Jay Smithberger, Judy Preston, Mickey Smith. Guest – Candi Moore

The minutes of the May 24, 2007 meeting were read and approved. Guest, Candi Moore was introduced. She serves with the Licking County Land Trust and joined in a discussion of their role with the management and development of the Spring Valley property. She reminded us that the township is owner of the property and generally responsible for its use and maintenance. The Trust's responsibility is to ensure that whatever is done follows easement requirements.

Ms. Moore told us the Land Trust is planning to hire a landscape architect to look at the parcel and make its recommendations for the development of the land.

We were told that before the property can be made available for public use the pool area needs to be made safe and all buildings need to be secured. The rental of facilities presents additional issues to be resolved and will require further evaluation. Although several ideas for use of the area that is currently pool have been presented, the trustees have begun working on getting bids to fill in the structure.

Ms. Moore reported that the Land Trust has initiated a Stewardship and Development fund for Spring Valley. It currently has about \$10,000. She also informed us Park National Bank has donated \$25,000 for Spring Valley pool removal and the planting of trees.

Craig asked Ms. Moore about building bridges over the creek in Spring Valley. She told us it would not be an issue with the Land Trust and that such an activity would be consistent with building trails.

Craig presented a framework for a goals statement to be offered to the Trustees. We also reviewed the e-mail from Wes Sargent regarding a Spring Valley meeting and used it to help shape our goals statement. Discussion followed and focused on topics of rental income, use of buildings, pool area, landscaping, and building maintenance and upgrades.

We agreed that rentals could generate enough to care for the property and should be managed by professional property managers. We also will suggest that Granville Recreation Committee be contacted to ask if they would assume Spring Valley maintenance tasks they currently perform at Wildwood and other Granville parks.

A review of the Salt Run parcel issues was held. It was reported that the farmer using the acreage at Salt Run has planted corn edge to edge in the field. We will ask the township to mow outside the edge as a walking path. Also, chipping in Salt Run has not been done. Craig will ask about this in the statement to the trustees.

Craig shared a catalogue sampling of blazes available for marking the trail at Spring Valley. No decision was made as to which to use but we would like to have them by Autumn, 2007 or the opening of the park.

There was discussion of middle school students working a trail maintenance effort as a school sponsored service project. The committee supported such an activity.

Rob Schaadt presented a review of a Farm Management Proposal developed by Bill Laughlin of the Licking County Soil and Water Office. It was strongly accepted by the committee and will be forwarded to the Trustees with a recommendation that it be implemented as soon as it is completed and as current lease allows or expires. Craig is to forward the proposal to the Trustees.

There will be no meeting for the committee in July. The next meeting will be August 16, 2007 at 7:30 pm in the Sexton building of Maple Grove Cemetery.

Respectively submitted by Mickey Smith