

Granville Township Land Management Committee
October 20, 2009 Minutes

Present: Rob Schaddt, Greg Dixon, Roger Dunifon, Judy Preston, Laura Mickelson, Grace Gordon and Mickey Smith

Public Relations: It was agreed to continue the practice of approving meeting minutes by e-mail and, once full approval was made, to forward it to the trustees and appropriate representatives of the Licking Land Trust by e-mail.

Judy wrote letters of 'Thanks' to individual Boy Scouts who have completed projects at Spring Valley/Salt Run. After being signed by trustee, Fred Abraham, Rob mailed the letters. Judy will also prepare letters to the Girl Scout troop thanking them for their work at Spring Valley/Salt Run. Laura wrote and sent a letter to The Sentinel publicly acknowledging the scouts' work. Judy has also sent pictures of the Kiwanis Sugar Bush project to Norm for posting on the web-page.

Parks & Trails: Rob will meet this week with Fred Abraham, Doug Spieles, Lesa Miller, Tim Howarth, Dr. Aguilar and students of her Denison University Environmental Practicum course to further study the possibility of developing the Spring Valley Bath House into a Nature Study Center. The group will look at potential users, fund sources and other relevant issues connected with such a project.

The local Girl Scout troop 60230 has sealed the bridge on Salt Run and several of the benches on the Spring Valley/Salt Run site. They are also working with a Shop teacher of the Granville schools to construct and install a group of bird houses in the park.

Members of the committee met Sunday, October 18, 2009 to walk and become acquainted with the newly acquired Gordon property. Rob suggested a sub-committee be formed to develop a plan for the use of that property. The proposed plan would then be submitted to the trustees. Greg, Laura, Grace and Judy agreed to serve on that committee and will prepare a report for our next meeting.

Agriculture: No Agriculture issues were presented.

Other: Rob talked with Norm about the possibility of funding projects approved by the committee. We learned that funds are usually approved at the planning stage of a project and cannot be awarded after a project has been completed. Norm suggested we submit a request for committee funds as the township builds its budget for next year. Judy will develop a request for funding for the year 2010 in the amount of \$1000. Anticipated uses for the money could include: seed money for improvement projects, trail work tools, refreshments for Work Day and other appropriate events, blazes or other means of trail marking, future maps and various modes of public information.

Ryan Green had asked for funding assistance for his work at Spring Valley., but funds from the committee are not available. Greg will talk with Ryan and suggest he approach the Licking Land Trust for funds. He will recommend contacting the Trust through Doug Spiels.

Rob shared a planting plan designed by Mary Fitch of the Land Trust. An individual

from the community had asked if a tree may be planted at Spring Valley as a memorial. In response, Rob asked Doug Spiels for a sense of what the Trust had in mind regarding plantings at Spring Valley. More study of the plan will be done before the committee will offer it as a guide for the public.

Doug Spiels had told Rob that the Licking Land Trust is planning a 20th Anniversary celebration of the group, and would like to plant a tree at the Raccoon Valley Park in commemoration of the event. Since Raccoon Valley Park is under the jurisdiction of the Granville Recreation Commission, Rob suggested to Doug Spiels that they contact Lesa Miller.

Next meeting: Tuesday, December 1, 2009 at the Sexton House of Maple Grove Cemetery.

Submitted by: Mickey Smith