

GRANVILLE TOWNSHIP LAND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
MINUTES - February 8, 2011 meeting

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

GUESTS: none

MEETING MINUTES: Minutes of the January 11, 2011 meeting were approved by e-mail and forwarded to trustees and Licking Land Trust representatives.

PUBLIC RELATIONS: no report

PARKS AND TRAILS: Greg has recommended to Brendan Lowell that he go ahead with building the tables and benches at the Spring Valley Preserve as proposed in his Eagle Scout project plan. He suggested that Brendan not construct the longer benches he had considered. Norm Kennedy has sent the trustee's approval of the project plan to Brendan and copied the approval to Judy.

Greg has repaired a damaged support pole at the lower level shelter house. Work at the stream will not be done until there has been more thawing.

Greg also reported that more trail maps need to be copied; it will also be necessary to update the maps. A suggestion was made that either Denison or Granville High School students be contacted for making the update. Grace will contact Denison to see if they can help with this.

AGRICULTURE:

The trustees have asked that the LMC be responsible for all preliminary activities associated with awarding farming leases on township lands. The committee would be asked, then, to present the trustees with their recommendation for the successful bidder. After a concentrated discussion the committee decided we are able and willing to make recommendations for particular issues regarding leasing of farming properties but are not qualified to prepare the needed documents nor believe we are the appropriate group to recommend a successful bidder for public lands.

With regard to the two upcoming Farm leases the committee recommends bidding them separately and not offering any discount to Granville township residents.

DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS: Judy reported that she and Mickey met with Trustee VanNess to clarify issues related to properties on which the township holds development rights. The committee has agreed to develop a plan and provide oversight of the properties and will make use of the Licking Land Trust format as a basis for this work. Rob Schaadt will be invited to attend the March meeting to help us find commonalities within the individual property contracts and guide us in the development of an observation design.

It was decided to talk with the trustees regarding a letter to be sent to the property owners explaining the upcoming oversight process. Laura will talk with a Land Trust representative about a generic letter format used for this purpose.

OTHER: The trustees asked that we review a request by Columbia Gas Transmission allowing them to purchase an easement within the Quisenberry property to build a blow-off valve station. After discussion, three questions were presented:

1. Is there language in the Open Space purchase agreement that restricts ,or even discourages, gas lines or any type of structure being built on the property?
2. How will the farmer be compensated for any damage to the crop planted there? Could the work be done before planting or after harvesting?
3. Is the monetary offer a valid compensation for the indefinite use of the land?

Dan asked that we consider what action should be taken for the old barn on the Quisenberry parcel. There was general agreement that the structure should come down. However, before going ahead and destroying it we suggest that the township advertise for anyone that may be interested in taking it down for the lumber.

Judy told us she would be meeting tomorrow with the GRC and Trustee Jenks about our role in the development, maintenance and use of the Spring Valley Preserve. There is a unanimous agreement that we are not interested in doing day to day management but are willing to work with scouts and guide other individual projects that contribute to the growth and development of the Preserve.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting was set for Thursday, March 10, 2011 at 7:30 p.m in the Sexton House of Maple Grove Cemetery.

Submitted by Mickey Smith