

Great Saltpetre Cave Preserve Committee Meeting

March 9, 2017 – Jerry Brandenburg’s house

Committee Members Present:

Jerry Brandenburg

Tama Cassidy (online)

Neena Jud

Werner Jud

Bob Roth (online)

Scott Pavey

Dan Zubal (online)

Also attending:

Gary Bush (online)

Bill Carr (online)

Sean Cain (online)

Patrick Gibson (online)

Meeting started at 7:14 pm

Secretary’s Report:

Dan Zubal made a motion to accept the minutes from last month, amended to correct the spelling of Brittney Tucker’s first name, BR 2nd.

Caretaker’s Report:

Groups of youngsters have been found repeatedly pulling upwards on the front gate, trying to break the lock. Bill reported interrupting them on three occasions.

Discussion ensued about installing a camera (acquired in prior year) to view and record activities at the front gate. Patrick suggested a 900 megahertz wireless system could work for this application. He found information on a camera, which would record to an SD card during night and day when motion is detected, and wireless send & receive devices for about \$400. He will share this with Bill to review and comment.

The lights at the steps to the Cave were left continually burning. One outlet at the post is controlled by a photo eye and is so marked. This is the outlet that the lights should be plugged into so they do not stay on during the day. If anyone plugs them in, they should return to unplug them before leaving the Preserve.

Bill spoke with Shaun Loveless and twice monthly service will resume in April.

Scott Pavey made a motion to accept the Caretaker’s report, DZ 2nd.

Treasurer’s Report:

Expenses exceeded Income in February 2017. Financial report available upon request.

Old Business

Timbre concert in GSP. No new information. Via email one week ago, Justin Tucker is still trying to work out a day to meet with her at the Preserve.

Road Repair grant funding: FEMA is asking for a Public Notice to be placed in the Mt. Vernon Signal requesting comments from interested parties in lieu of an Environmental Impact Statement. Comment period shall be open for 30 days. After that we send a copy of the notice and any comments received to FEMA. An approval should follow within a couple of weeks.

Wheelchair for use in Cave: no progress. Scott reports that it is in the workshop.

Light on the American Flag: Gary wants to talk with Werner to resolve the wiring and connections. He does not have the LED flood light yet. Extra security measures to protect the flag will not be necessary.

Open House: Since the last meeting, Jerry has been gathering ideas on how to manage the tours. He determined that we need to establish a common route for all tours to follow AND establish time limits. This means some guides will need to adjust their route and some guides will need to cut their talks short or fill bits in here or there according to the movement of the group ahead. When large numbers of people are waiting, Bill Carr will advise guides to bypass Russian Dome.

There will be an orientation meeting for all guides, Saturday morning of Open House 8:30 am at the Shelter.

Kitchen expenses were discussed and a budget was established at \$1200 for soup beans & cornbread, breakfast and Saturday dinner for volunteers, plus kitchen supplies. NJ made the motion, 2nd by SP, amended by BC, no opposition.

Decision to not get Climax water this time, but have igloo with ice water and paper cups available for all up at the Cave as well as at the Shelter.

Advertising through Facebook is a double edged sword. It is expected, and people are asking, but more advertising will bring more crowds. Decision to post the Facebook Event at the end of March/beginning of April.

Work weekend to clean up the Preserve will be May 6 & 7, 2017.

The Ticket House See attached Scope of Work document. Bob Roth suggests considering the work in phases:

Phase One: Structural Repair	May - July
Phase Two: Repairs & Upgrades (roof, Electric, Floor slab)	July - December
Phase Three: Memorial Wall & Landscaping	Jan. - May 2018

Bob will work aggressively to get the work done in a year. He suggests kicking off a Fundraising Campaign at Open House. Matt Indrutz (COG member) agreed to do a concept drawing for a poster to describe the project and ask for contributions. Cash, materials or labor donations towards the budget of \$25,000 will all be appreciated.

Suggestions to contact the Mullins family and the McGuire family due to their fathers' roles as caretaker and their roles as tour guides to see if any connections could be made for material donations. Develop an article for the newspaper.

Bronze plaque honoring Ellie Schiller: Werner contacted Guy Marwick at Felburn Foundation to ask if they have a good photo of her to use on the plaque. His back-up plan is to contact a friend of hers, Estella Leopold. Tama Cassidy got a quote from a Bronze plaque supplier that she met at a conference. It was passed on to Werner.

Budget for 2017: Werner reviewed the Budget that was tabled at last meeting due to lack of time. Scott Pavey made a motion to accept the budget, TC & BR 2nd.

New Business:

Scouts: Volunteers are needed to help with Scouts, especially since Ralph Mann is moving away and Darryl Marsh will be out of town for a couple of weeks. Contact Darryl to volunteer.

Discussion ensued about the six weekends in March & April with Scout trips scheduled. Some have grotto members as sponsors, but the majority in April need sponsors/guides. Werner will talk with Darryl about his plan for the next two weekends, and report back via email to all at this meeting.

Further discussion ensued about using social media to connect cavers AND encourage volunteers. Typically Scout volunteers are obtained through the grottos because it fits with the social aspect of caving together, is a way to educate about caving, and may bring new members to the grottos. The GSP Committee has more of a facility management role, but as members of our grottos we wear multiple hats. Further discussion was tabled until Bob Dobbs recovers from his illness, since GCG recently made progress with social media.

Announcements

The General Fire Ban is in effect again.

Meeting ended approx. 9:30 pm.

**Next meeting will be:
7:00 pm, Thursday April 13, 2017 at Jerry Brandenburg’s house.**

Calendar Summary:

March 11-12, 2017	Mammoth Cave volunteer weekend with GCG
March 11, 2017	Scouts (one troop)
March 18, 2017	Scouts (one troop)
March 25, 2017	tentative Rescue Committee meeting – Jonathan Carman
March 25, 2017	Scouts three troops)
April 1, 2017	BGG caving weekend at GSP
April 8, 2017	Scouts (one troop)
April 17, 2017	School Field Trip – 105 Jackson County 8 th graders
April 18, 2017	School Field Trip – 130 Jackson County 7 th graders
April 22, 2017	DUG Meeting in the Field
April 22, 2017	COG hosting Central Indiana Grotto at GSP for Skylight trip
April 22, 2017	Scouts (one troop)
April 29, 2017	Scouts (three troops)
May 6, 2017	Work Weekend at GSP
May 20-21, 2017	Open House at GSP
May 26-27, 2017	Speleofest at Lone Star Preserve
May 27, 2017	Mullins family reunion at the Shelter
June 17, 2017	tentative Timbre concert at GSP (June 24, 2017 alt. date)
June 17-24, 2017	NCRC Training in Bend Oregon
June 19-23, 2017	NSS Convention in Rio Rancho, New Mexico
July 21-23, 2017	Karst O Rama at GSP
September 9, 2017	Caver Appreciation Weekend at GSP

Great Saltpetre Cave Preserve Ticket House Renovation

Scope of Work (Concept Stage)

- 1) Number and photograph stones in segment of wall to the right of the front door.
 - a) Disassemble stones and set aside (palletized) for re-installation
- 2) Number and photograph flagstones along south side and around front across front door.
 - a) Remove flagstones and set aside (palletized) for re-placement.
- 3) Chisel out and remove repair mortar
 - a) Under and around north roof beam
 - b) Over and around wood lintels
 - c) Below and between heavy timbers of gabled front
 - d) At movement cracks in back wall on both sides
- 4) Remove cast iron vent stack through roof, possibly including one or both 45 degree angle sweeps.
- 5) Clean out and remove all stuff from Front Room and old Women's Toilet Room. Relocate as appropriate to function for storage or use or discard.
- 6) Construct scaffolding inside front room to support ceiling beams and possibly to raise them/ bring them to level.
- 7) Cut new doorway opening (40" wide masonry opening) between Front Room and old Women's Toilet Room.
- 8) Remove floor repair and southern broken away section of concrete floor. Discard material.
- 9) Remove deteriorated wood plywood exterior finish. Clean out debris.
- 10) Install Simpson Strong Tie DTT2Z deck tension ties to the side of the lower edge of each roof rafter, connecting them across the building with all-thread and turnbuckles.
 - a) See lateral load application
 - b) Nuts & washers required
 - c) 1500 pound lateral load capacity.
- 11) Shore up south beam at two locations: front cantilever and through existing doorway.
 - a) Provide for jacking up 6"
 - b) Provide stabilization to prevent rotation and to draw beam closer to building.
- 12) Excavate for new foundation under wood wall and proposed stone piers.
 - a) Remove and set aside any stones useable for veneer.
 - b) Minimum 30" deep
 - c) Utilize epoxy coated reinforcing steel being stored at back of building
 - d) Two segments to this work: first between scaffolding, second towards end of building.
- 13) New concrete floor slab
 - a) Excavate for 4" thick gravel base
 - b) Dowel in to existing floor slab at 6" to 12" apart and install epoxy anchors
 - c) Install reinforcing mesh,
 - d) Pour minimum 4" thick concrete slab from new foundation to existing slab edge
- 14) Infill fallen away concrete block sections and fill in old doorway, toothing in block where possible.
- 15) Construct new piers of concrete block with stone veneer to match face veneer. *Size and spacing of piers is not yet determined.*
- 16) Reconstruct wall segment to right of front door.
- 17) Replace missing stones beyond Men's Toilet Room door.

- 18) Infill between piers with memorial wall panels. Materials and design not yet developed.
- 19) Reconnect ceiling joists or beams to south heavy timber.
 - a) Tighten turnbuckles
- 20) Re-roof building
 - a) Remove existing shingles
 - b) Inspect sheathing, repair as necessary, infill hole where vent pipe removed.
 - c) Apply new 30 lb roofing felts
 - d) Apply new shingles (or standing seam metal roofing)
 - e) Install new gutter along south beam with downspout at back corner.
- 21) Install new front door and frame.
- 22) Install new door and frame to old Women's TR/ new Storage Room.
- 23) Reconstruct door to old Men's Toilet Room
- 24) Replace chinking between heavy timbers at front gable.
- 25) Re-lay flagstones
- 26) Refresh Electrical service to building,
 - a) New sub panel
 - b) New wiring
 - c) Replace & improve light fixtures
 - d) Install new switches and receptacles
 - e) Install telephone and/or wifi connections