

Great Saltpetre Cave Preserve Committee Meeting

November 9, 2017 – Jerry Brandenburg’s house

Committee Members Present:

Jerry Brandenburg
Neena Jud
Werner Jud

Scott Pavey
Bob Roth (online)
Dan Zubal (online)

Also attending:

Gary Bush (online)
Sean Cain (online)
Bill Carr (online)

Elizabeth Copelin (online)
Bob Dobbs
Patrick Gibson (online)

Meeting started at 7:10 pm

Announcement

Wear **orange** or **bright colors** when in the woods. Deer season using guns runs from November 11 - 20, 2017 and Muzzleloader season runs from December 9-17, 2017. Archery season is currently open and will last until about January 7, 2018.

Secretary’s Report:

Scott Pavey made a motion to accept the minutes from last month as amended below, WJ 2nd.

Amend October’s minutes to add: Handwashing Stations with two sink basins, hand soap, paper towels & trash can run \$50 delivered and \$15-25 per service (at same time as Port-O-Lets are serviced).

Caretaker’s Report:

The large dumpster was removed and a small dumpster has been delivered. The two extra Port-O-Lets from KOR have been removed the remaining units will be serviced one time a month until April.

The outside shower has been closed down for the winter. The Showerhouse water was turned off since the temperature will drop to 25° and will be turned on again this weekend. Bill suggested the Showerhouse may stay warmer during the Fall season if someone could bring four plexiglass panels to put in the windows in front of the screens.

Mowing has been intermittent lately due to the rains. Bill is trying to finish for the year.

As Bill was leaving the Preserve one day last week, he met Mr. Cox from the fire department who was parked at our front gate. He reminded Bill of the 6 am to 6 pm fire ban and that fires must be 150’ from any wood line. As Bill remembers, this ban is in effect until December 2. Mr. Cox further said the fine was raised to \$1,000 per incident.

Bill looked for an electric leaf blower at Lowes. He found a Kobalt unit that had a huge battery pack, and didn’t think it would be right for us, and therefore did not buy it. Werner added that the Kobalt units do not have a good reputation.

Someone asked Bill for a key to the Cave again. This request should be addressed to a Committee member, not Bill. He looked in the Electric Caver to see if the Committee members' phone numbers are listed, and found only email addresses. The member's lists which are published once a year have phone numbers, but it seems that the new people are the ones asking. Therefore some phone numbers should be in the EC. Neena will contact Sara Stacey to add Jerry's and Werner's phone numbers to the newsletter.

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

Treasurer's Report:

Income exceeded Expenses for the months of September & October 2017. Financial Report available upon request.

Werner noticed an unusually high bill for the campground meter for the month of October (appx. September 21 – October 20) and asked if anyone knew a reason for this. Electrons don't just flow if there is a break in the wiring, so someone must have plugged in a large load for a long time. No one was aware of such a usage.

Dan Zubal suggested adding signs to each of the electric posts reminding folks that Electric is extra.

Neena Jud made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, SP 2nd

Old Business

Road Repair: A meeting was scheduled for **7 pm Tuesday, November 14, 2017** at Neena & Werner Jud's house 1044 Vacationland Dr. Cincinnati Ohio 45231 (with GoToMeeting enabled) to establish the Schedule for the Work. The goal is to get the heavy equipment work completed in one week, with tree removal/trimming and clearing brush beforehand. We will also need to manage erosion issues before leaving this work for the winter.

Upper section of Asphalt Road – Bill reported that the paving crew that was working on Route 1955 has moved on to other work. He was unable to ask if they were able to repave our upper section cost effectively while they were in the area.

The Ticket House has had two big truckloads of excavated dirt & debris hauled off, thanks to the Paveys. Jerry is coordinating with the UC Mountaineering Club to get some volunteer labor to work on this project. Bob Roth suggested they might dig the 20' long footing trench another two feet deeper, but his work schedule has him slammed right now. Jerry will coordinate directly with Bob if he can get the volunteers.

Power to the Point: Dan Zubal reported that Werner has been talking with a guy at Jackson Energy about setting utility poles on either side of the dam at no cost to us. They have some poles available. When Werner can meet Jackson Energy at the Preserve on a weekday, they can get this done. Werner found out that the Jackson Energy truck weighs 16 tons. In comparison Kevin with DP Trucking has a dual axle truck that weighs 40 tons when totally full, and he has been across the dam with at least a partial load. After the poles are set, and the other pressing projects for the Preserve are under control, or behind us (like after Open House) Dan can work with others to figure out the wiring costs.

Discussion ensued about proceeding with the project since some people at the meeting don't want additional visible utility poles & wiring at the Preserve. Pros & cons of running the wiring along the down creek side of the dam above the culverts was bantered about with no real facts. A review of past meeting minutes revealed that no motion was made to proceed with a specific project.

Scott Pavey made the following motion: A feasibility study shall be performed to determine the best way to get electric service across the creek. This includes Werner Jud meeting with Jackson Energy to assess whether poles can be set within the riparian zone, (allowing that in that meeting poles may be set and we may later decide to remove them), and development of cost estimates for overhead and underwater/encased in concrete options. NJ seconded the motion, no opposition.

Tractor: Scott Pavey disassembled the pinion and took it to his home shop to rebuild. He will return to the Preserve and re-install it as soon as possible.

New tires and blades have been installed on the zero turn. The tread pattern is more aggressive for use on our hills. Be careful when turning so that you do not scalp the grass.

Recycling signs are at the Shelter. They are corrugated plastic rather than metal as Werner was led to understand they would be.

Friends of GSP: Bob Dobbs has been looking online to plagiarize wording for a flyer that can be distributed for this program. Some phrases he has so far include "subcommittee of the GSP Management Committee", "through fundraising & helping hands", and "foster a relationship" (with the community). He has more wordsmithing to do.

The subject of to whom donors should write checks that will qualify as tax deductible came up. In our yearly tax filing, Werner includes GSP's income (which includes checks written to GSP) & expenditures as a "program" of RKC which is a registered 501c3. A suggestion was made to confirm with the IRS how checks should be made out so they can be tax decuctible.

Next Bob needs to develop the "benefits" for the Friends. So far he is thinking that there could be one or two picnics each year for the Friends.

Jerry reported that Brian Saul (ESSO grotto) was very involved in establishing the "Friends of Carter Caves" program. Jerry will get Brian in touch with Bob.

Tama Cassidy was not at the meeting to give an update on the Miami County Park District volunteer program structure.

New Business:

Audio speakers for Field Trip Programs: Gary Bush reported that Dennis Green is looking for new audio speakers to work with the projector that he donated last year to the Field Trip program. Since it is an expensive system, he is concerned with cavers tampering with it to play their own music. If Dennis can come up with a tamper resistant installation, the Committee agreed that anyone messing with the system may be subject to banishment.

This equipment was donated for the exclusive use of the Field Trip program. There are one or two sets of speakers available for anyone's use.

BGG representative: Bob Roth is working on building BlueGrass Grotto, and feels that another person should take over for him as BGG rep to the Committee. Elizabeth Copelin has agreed to be the rep, but it needs to be approved by the BGG Board.

Scott Pavey made a motion to adjourn, WJ 2nd. The meeting ended 9:17 pm.

Next meeting will be:

7:00 pm, Thursday December 7, 2017 at Jerry Brandenburg's house.

Calendar Summary:

November 14, 2017	Road Repair Meeting, 7 pm
November 17, 2017	Trail Life group & Venture Crew 128
December 1, 2017	GCG Meeting & Christmas Party, 7:30 pm
December 9, 2017	BSA Troop 977
December 10 2017	RKC Meeting, 2pm