

Great Saltpetre Cave Preserve Committee Meeting

February 12, 2015 – Jerry Brandenburg's house

Committee Members Present:

Jerry Brandenburg
Tama Cassidy
Werner Jud

Neena Jud
Scott Pavey
Fred Ball (online)

Also attending:

Bob Dobbs
James Clements
Beau Gergel

Mark Skinner
Debi Pavey (online)

Jerry Brandenburg now has WiFi at his home. James Clements set up remote access to the meeting through TeamViewer. Two people joined the meeting remotely.

Meeting started at 7:10 pm.

Secretary's Report:

Minutes from the last meeting were reviewed.

TC moved to accept the minutes, SP 2nd

Caretaker's Report:

Bill Carr's report identified communication glitches over the past few months. Email addresses have been clarified and meeting announcements will be posted to the Yahoo Groups. He reported on the visit from the location scout for a movie and a proposal from Everett Wagner to cut off the berm and do the road repair work we outlined in the November & December meetings. See more about these topics below.

NJ moved to accept the minutes, SP 2nd

Treasurer's Report:

Expenses exceeded income. Financial Report available upon request.

TC moved to accept the Treasurer's Report, FB 2nd

Old Business

Budget Review: Werner passed around copies of the 2014 budget sheet completed through December 2014. He explained the process of developing a budget: Average the actual income and expenses for the last three years, review them with the committee to see if any adjustments should be made either up or down, then tweak the numbers to get expenses no higher than income.

Our income is primarily from donations, mostly camping, some from individuals, organizations and Open House. A small portion is from the sales of merchandise or souvenirs. We actually received more than we projected for 2014. The income from scout camping was almost twice what we projected, and GSP owes a big thanks to the efforts of Darryl Marsh, Ralph Mann, James Robinson and all the other cavers that assisted with scout trips.

We actually spent just a little more than we projected (not including the reserve fund). Un-budgeted expenses were a very high percentage of the total expenses but they were mostly for the NRHP plaque and the replacement grille at the Shelter.

A motion was made by NJ as follows:

Since our actual income is approximately \$2,000 more than our actual expenses so far, I propose we transfer \$1,000 into the reserve fund as we budgeted.

The vote was unanimously in favor.

Fred Ball suggested generating a wish list for “donations-in-kind” (physical contributions) that could be shared with our members to help this budget.

It was agreed to table the discussions about 2015’s budget until the next meeting.

Water Pressure: Jerry Brandenburg is taking full responsibility for the water pressure regulator replacement project. His friend Keith who is a plumber has agreed to participate.

Road Repair: Bill Carr talked with Everett Wagner regarding removing the berms. The work includes separating the gravel from the dirt, re-sloping the road to result in a single slope sideways so water can sheet off, for a cost of \$400. He figured we would then need 3 truckloads of gravel, which Bill estimated would cost \$525.

The Committee voted to Authorize Bill Carr a budget of \$1,000 to do the road repair as described above from his house down to the Sycamore Tree near the Main Shelter.

Kitchen: New lock and new keys will be produced by Fred Ball. They are to be keyed differently than we have now. It is a Master #3 lock. We will probably need 30 keys.

Duties of Committee Members: A few people handed lists of tasks to Jerry, but he asked all committee members & caretaker to email him their list of things that need to be done (whether done by you or others, or not done but you know it needs to be) so he can assemble a master list.

At this point, we took a moment to sing Happy Birthday to Scott Pavey.

GSP Flag: A new flag has been obtained from National Flag Company in Cincinnati at a cost of \$120. It is very similar to the old one except the logo is rotated.

Project List: Although the entire list was not discussed, we did review the Scout Projects. Tama Cassidy volunteered to be the Project Manager and provide a list of Eagle Scout projects or service projects for groups to do at the Preserve.

Werner suggested an addition to the list: digging a French drain ditch along the eaves of the Scout Shelter, filling it with gravel, and draining it to the creek.

Jerry suggested adding gutters to the Scout Shelter and connecting to rain barrels that the Scouts could use.

Volunteer hours book: Ron Hager printed new pages. Bob Dobbs will get a new binder, assemble it and put it back in place near the phone. There should be signage at the kiosk and near the phone to remind folks to sign the book. Beau was asked to put a notice in the Electric Caver that GSP is re-implementing the log book. If someone does something for GSP, we want to know about it. Having a record of volunteer hours spent on tasks to benefit the Preserve can make a difference when applying for grants for projects.

Committee: Werner has kept Pat Hutson in the loop, but we need his input or a replacement. Jerry will contact the BGG Chair to discuss representation to the Committee.

Teamviewer works on a cell phone without video, but it uses a lot of data.

Movie: Jerry Brandenburg and Bill Carr met with Himkar Tak regarding the use of GSP as a location for filming a movie. Himkar is a young writer/director looking to make his first feature film which will be named Oil. This will be an independent film, much smaller than the Warner Brothers production of Fire Down Below.

Oil is about an inexperienced geologist and a life-long driller who must work together to free themselves after a catastrophic accident on a remote land oil rig that leaves them trapped far underground.

Jerry & Bill showed him around the Preserve and in the Cave, explaining what they can and cannot do, and that one of us will need to be hired to be on site with them at all times. Himkar was very pleased with what he saw. He is taking this information back to the producers and crew of the film.

This will take approximately 30 days of filming. They may camp or bring a trailer. This will probably be sometime in the fall (and we advised him of our already committed dates). Bill Carr has volunteered to be their primary contact and the onsite representative. (The Committee agreed).

Bob Dobbs suggested contacting the Kentucky Film commission to ask what the going rate is for location fees.

Open House: Athena Gentry from the Richmond County Library has offered to subsidize Spook Handy to play and sing at Open House. All Committee members were in favor.

Clan Destin, the group of historical re-enactors have asked to be able to set up their tents at Open House again this year. They took a break last year. All Committee members were in favor. Jerry will respond in the affirmative.

Bob Dobbs said that James Robinson has begun distributing posters for Open House. Neena saw a draft, but not the finished product. None of the rest of the Committee has seen it. It has a new contemporary design and says all the same things as before with two additions: "Only open two days out of the year so don't miss it!" "It really is one of Kentucky's hidden treasures." The posters need to be revised to include the musician and re-enactors. Bob will talk with James. He needs to be involved in the next few meetings, either in person or on-line.

A notice about Open House has been submitted to Kentucky Living magazine, and can be updated with the new information.

A notice will be submitted to the Mt. Vernon Signal as the event approaches. In addition an article about Bill Simpson should be submitted to the Signal and include invitations to landowners for the Memorial ceremony on Saturday to dedicate the Scout Shelter and scatter his ashes. The time is still undecided, slight preference for 9 am if Bill's family can arrive in time, other option is 6:30 or 7:00 in the evening.

Scout Shelter: Werner is watching the weather to schedule a work day to complete the siding on the end gables. Tentatively set as February 22, 2015 *but due to snow and freezing temperatures, it was postponed most likely until March 21.*

Committee Meeting at GSP: Last September the Committee agreed to have a spring meeting at GSP to assess the grounds and what needs to be done to prepare for Open House and summer activities. It was suggested to be in either March or April. **The Committee decided on Saturday April 11, 2015 for the meeting.** We will start at breakfast to strategize, go forth throughout the day, and regroup at dinner.

Equipment assessment: During a recent visit to the Preserve, Scott Pavey assessed the Tractor – it needs an oil change. He was unable to find Rotella or an oil filter for the tractor. He was able to find pricing for two new tires at \$65.00 each. He assessed the Zero Turn – supplies for thorough maintenance on it (plus spring) will cost under \$200.00. **Scott was authorized to spend \$400.00 on the maintenance of these two important pieces of equipment.**

Also during that visit Scott found debris from beavers stuck in the dam culvert pipes and cleared much of it.

Facilities assessment: Jerry cleaned off all the roof surfaces of the Shelter and found that a few shingle tabs are missing. There are some replacement shingles in the Tractor Barn. James

Clements has offered to re-tar the old valley (on the fire-pit side of the kitchen) as a temporary repair.

The Lower Mondo roof has a 2" hole and an entire seam is torn. James Clements will take care of it.

The Upper Mondo has some shingle issues and needs a drip edge. The T1-11 siding is deteriorated near where the drip edge is needed. Proposed solution is to trim off the upper ?? inches of siding, install metal z-flashing and replacement siding above.

The siding on the "recently installed" closure wall on the downhill side of the Ticket House is failing. It may need to be re-roofed also. A downspout is needed.

Request for permission to visit GSP between February 26 & March 1: Some folks from Franklin, North Carolina emailed a request to visit. Bob Dobbs offered to follow up with them.

T-shirts: In order to restock GSP's inventory in time for School Field Trips and Open House, we need to order more. Proposal to order 84 shirts in sizes ranging from youth medium through XXL. **Werner (or Neena) was authorized to place the order.**

Water Heater in Kitchen: Werner explained that the tankless water heater is seven years old. It had a three year warranty when purchased. Last year he replaced the heating elements and o-rings, but all who have used the sink know that the hot water is still persnickety. He could try a delicate repair to replace the triacs (integral parts of the thermostat circuit which serve to turn on the elements). This would be a marginal repair and would cost a couple hundred dollars. He proposes instead to purchase a new unit with improved technology at a cost of \$900.00 (a discounted price from the manufacturer) which would be a better long-term solution. He asks the Committee to consider this request (refer to his email to the Committee on 1/13/2015 subj.: a report from WJ) and be prepared to make a decision at the next meeting.

KOR: James Clements is relaxing the registration requirements, no longer requiring someone to be a member of a grotto or the NSS or be sponsored as has been the requirement for only the past three years; but he intends to only advertise to or through grottos.

Due to complaints, he is reducing the area allotted to Party Camp to include Scout Camp and half-way to the Shower house. The noise from Party Camp after 11:00 pm will not be allowed to extend beyond half-way up the hill towards the Upper Mondo. He plans to make this restriction clear in advertising and upon check-in and will enforce it. NJ to send James a pdf of the Map of the entire grounds for his use.

Cave hours were discussed but not finalized. We could have different closing times on different days. We could have cave monitors in the Cave. If sponsors are not required, some think the Cave needs more monitoring. Yet it is a fact that although membership in a grotto or NSS or a sponsor was required in the last two years, activities occurred in the Cave that are against our rules. Having access to an amenity such as Great Saltpetre Cave is a big part of the draw of KOR. A decision needs to be finalized soon so the Cave hours can be published in advance on the KOR website as well as being listed in the Guidebook.

The next KOR meetings will be at 6:15 before the GCG Executive Board Meetings (same location) 2/23/2015 & 3/23/2015.

Meeting ended at 10:05 pm.

**Next meeting will be:
7 pm, Thursday March 12, 2015 at Jerry Brandenburg's house.
The TeamViewer meeting number is m94-255-094**