

Great Saltpetre Cave Preserve Committee Meeting

April 11, 2015 – Shelter @ GSP

Committee Members Present:

Jerry Brandenburg
Fred Ball
Tama Cassidy
Neena Jud

Werner Jud
Pat Hutson
Scott Pavey

Also attending:

Bill Carr
John Cassidy
Bob Dobbs
Bill Huber
Darlene Kisner
Tammy Otten
Debi Pavey

James Robinson
Mark Skinner
Mark Swelstad
Jamie Thompson
Dan Zubal
Patrick Gibson (online)

Meeting started at 6:21 pm.

Thanks!

To Dan Zubal for being our Tech Geek this weekend and arranging for the Virtual Meeting on GoToMeeting.

To Bill Carr for mowing the Campground including the upper field.

To Pat Hutson for bush-hogging Long Bottom & Barton Field today.

Caretaker's Report:

The Public Address System is operational now. It is for School Groups only and few people will be able to access it. A few cables & adapters are still desirable. Fred Ball offered to obtain them. If anyone wants to hear music under the Shelter, there are a couple of speakers on the shelf next to the PA box which are available to bring out and plug in an Ipod or whatever. Please put them back when finished. Using the system to watch a movie or program requires prior coordination with Bob Dobbs.

There are wires within the Kitchen wall, many of which have been chewed by mice or rats. In order to seal holes in the wall through which the critters gain access, BC suggests inserting spray foam. He will get 2-3 cans and fill the openings.

Bill graded the roads a couple of times. Everett Wagner is awaiting a reasonable spell of dry weather to do the road repair authorized in a previous meeting.

Power to the Point and the Kiosk was on the same circuit. A short in the wires on the Point kept tripping the breaker so there was no light at the kiosk. Bill moved the Point service to another breaker, and removed the adapter cord so the Point cannot be energized until the wiring issue can be resolved. (See Projects below).

The Showerhouse is fully operational, including the outside shower.

Garbage cans (both in on the Point and under the Shelter) must be emptied before leaving the Preserve. Critters get in them, or storms blow them over and strew stuff everywhere. Bill offered to donate a large "job box" with heavy lid which could hold two of our standard garbage cans. This would be at the Shelter, and was accepted by Committee. Garbage can on the Point will be removed. All who use the Point must bag their trash and deposit in the dumpster. Recycling cans also need to be emptied. Jerry will get a secure lid for the recycling bin.

The kitchen was left unlocked a few times this past month.

Lila Mullins requested use of the Shelter on Saturday of Memorial Weekend. Scott Pavey will be at the Preserve for the weekend and will chat with her. The Committee had no objections.

Mike McKinney is scheduled to bring a group to the Cave on Sunday before KOR. Bill Carr will contact him to confirm arrangements.

NJ made a motion to accept Caretaker's report. SP 2nd.

Treasurer's Report:

Income exceeded expenses this month. Financial report available upon request.

Werner verbally reviewed the Budget since the PA system was unavailable. There is a new income category this year: Donations - School Field Trips. The Phone expense does not include Wifi/Long Distance, he has a separate holding account for the funds that Sherry Johnson-Clements collects.

PH so moved, SP 2nd. Voted unanimously in favor.

Old Business

The Scout Shelter was completed on March 21, 2015. Ron Hager prepared a proof of the sign which was accepted. The dedication service will be Saturday morning of Open House weekend at 9 am. It might be nice to invite some scout troops to this event.

Water Pressure: There will be a reconnaissance trip with Jerry's Plumber friend before the weekend to replace the pressure regulator & enclosure box.

Kitchen: The lock will be changed after all of the new keys have been issued to Committee Members Grotto Executive Board members, Officers and people with Emeritus status. The new keys use a restricted keyway which cannot be copied at a neighborhood locksmith. This is being done because the Kitchen shut down procedures have not been properly followed.

There is a Cave key request form for Grotto members which includes a check box to also request a kitchen key. Cave key holders may use their own discretion about loaning out the Kitchen key.

Duties of Committee Members: Jerry is compiling a master list of things that make the Preserve run. Tasks will be delegated to Committee members (most likely the things they already do). As new people cycle onto the Committee tasks will be assigned to them.

Volunteer hours book is next to the phone. Please log all volunteer hours, including time spent with Scouts.

Movie: Two weeks ago an enthusiastic email was received by Jerry Brandenburg & Bill Carr. They are still working on it, still in progress.

Open House: Encourage Cave Guides & Tailgunners to be in costume. Madison County Library will sponsor Spook Handy to play and sing on Sunday. Two extra Port-O-Lets will be needed, and might as well keep them through KOR in June. Bill Carr will coordinate this with Shaun Loveless.

Dumpster: Bill Carr suggests not getting a big dumpster this year for KOR. Issue tabled until discussion w/ KOR folks and a better attendance projection.

Water Heater in Kitchen: Currently it is functional, although it does have its glitches at times. This unit lasted 7 years, relatively trouble free. But last year there were issues with the heating elements (which got replaced) and the source of the glitchiness has been identified. Hubble (which absorbed the original manufacturer and has since improved the technology) is offering

to sell us a new one for \$900 rather than the \$1250 selling price. It could be installed with minimal piping adjustments.

Concern was raised about the cost of the unit and reliability (suggesting alternate manufacturers). A different manufacturer may not be so “plug-n-play” as this one. A tank type water heater would require additional plumbing and other adjustments to the kitchen to accommodate it.

It was decided to table the decision until next month, have Jamie Thompson & others fully price out installation of tankless vs tank type water heaters, including alternative tankless manufacturers. In addition, all Committee members should do their own research on quality and reliability of these units.

KOR: No KOR representative was at the meeting, so the discussion revolved around Cave Security. The Committee has decided to greatly limit open hours and collect names of people who go in & out of the Cave. When alcohol flows, the gate is closed.

Fred Ball will be the Cave Security Coordinator.

- He will organize volunteers so that there will be one gate keeper and at least one person roving through the cave.
- He will coordinate with James Clements to know when the beer taps will open.
- Two hour blocks of time sound reasonable.
- He will post a schedule at registration to request help with cave security.

Discussion about what to do if security people are aware of an undesired activity.

- Ask the person/people to leave, come out and report to the gate person who would call for back-up;
- Make a visual identification and go get help (so that the confrontation can occur when exiting the cave);
- Take a photograph of the infraction.

In addition to the rules about not touching the signatures or the walls in general, not writing or marking on the walls, no smoking or urinating in the Cave, we want to make it clear that Frisbee or football throwing in Echo Auditorium is also not allowed.

New Business:

Sponsoring Large groups: Mark Swelstad will be sponsoring a group of about 25 friends and neighbors on the weekend of June 5-6, 2015. He submitted a large group request form online, but has not heard a response. All agreed he would be fine.

Work that needs to be done at GSP:

Project status: Electric to the Point, preferably by KOR: in order to restore functionality, 150' of minimum 10/3 UF underground cable is required, to be buried minimum 6" below the surface. Cost may be around \$220.

Repair status: Culvert at end of back field needs to be re-covered with gravel & rocks. Pat Hutson has a plan.

Project status: A sink in or in front of the Showerhouse. Patrick Gibson has an old double bowl kitchen sink & faucet that he can donate, will bring at Open House.

Repair status: Several dead trees in the back field. If they are over a potential campsite, take them out. If not, leave them standing to season. A bobcat may be useful to take out the base of the dead trees or other bases.

Project status: Reconstruct artifact case and preserve artifacts. Suggested to relocate to behind fence. In case to reduce possibility of theft. This requires additional design work on the case and graphics to explain the artifacts before it can be fully presented to the Committee, but in the meantime the rope light was removed for the case. Other suggestions included finding a replica that visitors could handle.

Open House Prep Weekend: May 2-3, 2015. Need to check all lights in the Cave, replace some lamps, various weed whipping, gathering of brush, cutting back branches, cleaning of the Shelter & kitchen. Grass will be cut the week of Open House by Bill Carr.

Motion to adjourn by WJ, PH 2nd.

Meeting ended at 9:07 pm.

**Next meeting will be:
Thursday May 7, 2015 at Jerry Brandenburg's house.**