

Great Saltpetre Cave Preserve Committee Meeting

May 7, 2015 – Jerry Brandenburg’s house

Committee Members Present:

Jerry Brandenburg
Neena Jud
Werner Jud

Scott Pavey

Also attending:

Bob Dobbs
Richard Duncan
Janice Gott
Bill Addington

Ron Hager
Dan Zubal (online)
Patrick Gibson (online)

Meeting started at 7:20 pm.

Caretaker’s Report:

Everett Wagner worked on the road repair. The berm is gone. But since he arrived with a truck not quite as wide as expected, some areas are still crowned rather than the single cross slope that we wanted.

Mike McKinney is confirmed for visiting on Sunday June 14, 2015. Bill will cover this group.

In further Committee discussion about the road repair, the next step is to cut a channel across the road for a culvert. The issue was then tabled.

Treasurer’s Report:

Expenses exceeded income this month. Financial report available upon request.

SP made a motion to accept the Treasurer’s report, NJ 2nd.

Old Business

Scout Shelter: The sign was installed.

Werner will obtain & install a solar powered floodlight to illuminate the area under the Shelter. It will have a photocell to only illuminate when dark, and a switch to shut the light off if desired.

Jerry will construct a bulletin board to install at the Scout Shelter for communication with and between Scouts. It will have maps of the Campground, general information and some history about Jack Hissong & Bill Simpson.

Water Pressure: Jerry’s Plumber friend, Keith, will bring his family for a reconnaissance trip soon, but not before Open House. The purchasing of all the parts & pieces for this project will be delegated to him. GSP will supply labor.

Kitchen: The kitchen has been thoroughly cleaned. Propane level is adequate (74%). New kitchen keys are being distributed. The lock might be switched at Open House.

Scouts: Kenny Hedges (a DUG member, formerly quite active, now being a Dad) visited with his son’s troop a few weeks ago and sent Werner a comment, the gist of which is:

“Thanks! Max kudos to the group for ease of setting up the trip and a clean campground.”

Scott has been in contact with some Indiana Scouters who want to share info about GSP with others in their District or Region. Scott would like to give them a set of instructions that they can hand around. This should contain things like the website address, the Youth group caving form link, what they need to know about GSP, and how to get ahold of us. Darryl has been working on a flyer for Scouts with this information. **Scott will ask Darryl directly.** BA suggested asking some of the adult Indiana cavers to help with Indiana Scouts.

Duties of Committee Members: Please send your lists to Jerry.

Volunteer hours book is being filled in. Please continue to record your efforts.

Open House: Flyers & posters have been distributed. Bob Dobbs will confirm Spook Handy with Athena Gentry of Madison County Library for Sunday entertainment.

Julie Simpson & family will get a hotel in Mt. Vernon on Friday night so they can be at GSP by Saturday at 9 am for the Scout Shelter dedication. Since the dedication will be Saturday morning, we will need to do most all set-up Friday night (tents, picnic tables, souvenir counter).

RD has the toys & knickknacks to sell, other souvenir merchandise is here. WiFi is needed at the Cave to facilitate credit card sales through Square. For ease of tracking, Square has the capability of having inventory items listed so our “sales force” can select items to be purchased on screen. **Get a list of the inventory items and prices to Ron Hager in advance and he can get that set up.**

The kitchen will close for general use at 6 pm Friday night so the Open House food can be started. (Dan to get the word out.) COGsters should plan for 7:30 – 8:30 for serving breakfast with coffee available earlier. Wendy Orlandi is leading the COG kitchen crew. Janice Gott will still do the cornbread. Neena to virtually introduce Janice and Wendy for shopping list coordination.

Port-O-Lets: The extra units needed for school field trips will remain through KOR.

Dumpster: This issue to be discussed with the KOR committee.

Water Heater in Kitchen: Jamie checked pricing on new tankless water heaters through his sources and found no better deal than was offered to Werner. Dan investigated and found that price and warranty are competitive.

Scott made a motion to **Go ahead and purchase the water heater that fits our plumbing.** Neena 2nd. Unanimously approved.

Since the current water heater is not failing, this does not need to be a rush order.

Jerry still wants to contact the salesman with whom Werner has been dealing to see if we could get a lower price.

KOR: No KOR representative was at the meeting, so the discussion once again focused on Cave Security.

- There will be one gate keeper and at least one person roving through the cave.
- The Cave will be open as cave monitor volunteers are available.

- Additional signage (such as “no P in the cave”)

Large group: Mark Swelstad will get Dan’s cave key for his group on the weekend of June 5-6, 2015.

Electric to the Point: Needed before KOR. Limited to replacing wire on current route. Werner will assess on Friday before Open House. The repair work can be done on KOR prep weekend.

Culvert at end of back field: Scott will take this project on.

Artifact case: No further developments.

COG: In order to be a responsible managing grotto, they will modify some of their bylaws in regards to membership. In order to start that process, they need an offer in writing from the GSP Committee. They intend to require that their members read, understand and agree to abide by the rules of the Management Plan. People bringing guests to the Preserve are responsible for their guests. COG is looking forward to the rights, privileges and responsibilities that the other managing grottos have, but they do not want to overstep their bounds.

It was resolve that GSP will make the following offer to COG by their next meeting on May 26, 2015 (the fourth Tuesday of the month):

If COG will take part in meetings, decisions about the property, and help out with the property COG can be a participating grotto, enjoying the same benefits as other grottos. This will be accompanied by references to GSP’s codices.

New Business:

James Robinson/Bill Carr issue:

There was a physical altercation between James Robinson & Bill Carr the night of April 11, 2015. There were no witnesses.

The next morning, Bill Carr brought his complain to the Committee members who were still at the Preserve. He asked them to take action against James.

The Committee followed the procedures out lined in the banishment clause* of the Management Plan and invited James to present to the Committee his viewpoint of what happened that night.

A special meeting was held on Sunday, April 26, 2015 which included James, the full Committee (two of which were there via computer connection), and a few advisors invited by the Committee Chair.

After hearing James’ perspective, he was excused from the meeting. The Committee & advisors deliberated and the Committee decided against banishing James, but did conclude that they both played a part. (Bill was the first to touch James, and James escalated it.) So the Committee wrote them both letters with instructions to stay away from each other and not interact for a year and not defame each other’s character.

*The Committee deviated from the Management Plan in one way – by holding the special meeting earlier than 21 days. This was in order to resolve this issue as soon as possible; to get the maximum involvement from the Committee members; and due to all the other spring events already scheduled.

The above summary will be submitted as an Interim Report to the Executive Board of CGC with a request for them to forward it to RKC following the chain of accountability.

Caretaker: At various times over the years this Committee has discussed the Caretaker position at GSP in an effort to be prepared when Bill Carr decides to make a change in his life and move away from the Preserve. This discussion should not be construed as encouraging him to leave. Bill has played an important role at the Preserve and in the community, and we truly appreciate his efforts. When (next year or ten years from now) Bill lets us know that he intends to move the Committee would like to make a smooth transition, for his benefit as well as the Preserve. Since his lease is actually with RKC, that Board will need to be involved.

Motion to adjourn by SP, NJ 2nd.

Meeting ended approximately 9:30 pm.

**Next meeting will be:
7pm Thursday June 11, 2015 at Jerry Brandenburg's house.**