

Great Saltpetre Cave Preserve Committee Meeting

April 7, 2016 – Jerry Brandenburg’s house

Committee Members Present:

Jerry Brandenburg
Fred Ball (online)
Neena Jud

Werner Jud
Scott Pavey
Dan Zubal (online)

Also attending:

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

Bob Dobbs
Patrick Gibson (online)
Dennis Green (online)

Meeting started at 7:12 pm

Secretary’s Report:

Thanks to Tama Cassidy for taking the minutes of last month’s meeting when Neena was not in there. The minutes were reviewed and clarified.

DZ made a motion to accept the minutes, FB 2nd.

Caretaker’s Report:

The Zero turn is back at GSP. The larger issues were identified but not repaired. Two springs & a belt were replaced, and they only charged us for the parts.

The hydraulic fluid was changed last spring by Scott Pavey.

A new projector screen was installed in the old “trampoline” frame. The donated projectors were tested at GSP, and none worked very well. The old projector is still in operation.

The Showerhouse is up & running. The Women’s side has a working sink. The Men’s side has the sink re-installed but still needs a new faucet before being operable. In addition, the bags of lime currently stored in the sink stall need to go into 5 gallon buckets with lids to be kept in the Showerhouse storage.

The long Mounds of Dirt from the vendor row drainage project need to be removed. Grass seed is on site, ready for sowing. Unfortunately there was a lot of rain the night before this meeting, so it will take a few days for the ground to dry out to be able to be worked.

The correct pinion shaft for the tractor will be sent to BC the day after this meeting.

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

Treasurer’s Report:

Total income in March:	\$ 126.00
Total expenses:	- \$ 312.81
Net loss for the month	- \$ 186.81

Community Trust Checking	\$ 14,780.00 +/-
Peoples Bank Reserve Fund	\$ 3,509.69

Our checking account balance is low in comparison to past years. Our income is also lower. Werner hopes there are many donations in the pipe. Many scouts are expected in the next couple of weeks.

SP moved to accept treasurer's report, FB 2nd.

Old Business

Showerhouse: Brian Pitcher is prepping for re-painting. Pressure washing is planned for this weekend, painting will follow.

Werner Jud has the correct brass fittings for the vault in front of the Showerhouse.

Electric to the Point: the line is temporarily repaired so that the Mondo lights work.

Pole light at Cave has not been working lately. Werner will install the spare bulb & photo detector, but needs help with the ladder. Later he will get another fixture like the one at the Shelter.

Management Plan was submitted to RKC. It was rejected due to the section on keys. An acceptable revision would give RKC the same access to facilities as the GSP Committee and GCG Executive Board. Jerry Brandenburg, Gary Bush & Neena Jud will work together to re-write this section.

GSP fundraising/friendraising: Bob Dobbs is working on the program for the Richmond Rotary Club in April. Sean Cain will join Bob. The program will be entitled From Caving to Conservancy and will attempt to explain the interwoven organizations and our missions.

The White Collar dinner in the Cave is still on the calendar for June 4, 2016. More details will be developed after the Rotary Club meeting.

Open House: Members of COG will run the kitchen, providing soupbeans & cornbread for visitors and breakfasts and main dish for dinner for volunteers. The Committee recommended that COG purchase about 25% more food than last year since they ran out only a couple of hours before Open House ended. Since the total expenditure for food last year was just under \$600, we suggested a budget of \$800 for this year.

Flyers are needed before the Rotary Club meeting

Bill Carr to try to let the re-enactor folks from London know that we would appreciate their participation this year. Clans Destin will not be able to make it this year.

Dan Zubal created a Facebook event page and put it out there. So far 2,213 people are interested and 500 people say they are going. This is without promoting or posting frequently like James Robinson did last year. We may have a large attendance again.

Questions have been asked on Facebook about reservations for Open House and large groups. Suggest that large groups come earlier in the day. When we have large crowds Cave Guides should use their judgement about skipping Russian Dome as it is often a bottleneck, but is easily skipped. Question asked about Handicapped Accessibility to and through the Cave. Best answer – it is not officially accessible due to irregular floor surfaces and the steepness of Bunker Hill, but a motorized wheelchair got a visitor from the entrance into Echo Auditorium and back out.

To increase donations, we will remind cave Guides to say something like “Thank you for visiting GSP. Please consider supporting our Preserve and our efforts with school field trips and scout caving trips. Donation cans are on the picnic tables. Please join RKC to support our efforts to protect caves for future generations of cavers.” This could be said just before entering the Devil’s Racetrack.

This verbiage will be added to the Cheat Sheet & distributed before Open House. Additional copies will be available that weekend.

We need more copies of the Cave map. It would be good to put some Historical information on the back.

Souvenirs will be replenished. Sean will get a large number of flashlights through Walmart. Bob has ordered 200 or more stuffed bats and similar items. Most small trinkets have been depleted and will be reordered. We need more Adult Large T-Shirts.

Ron Hager made his Ipad available for tracking the souvenir purchases in past years. Might he do this again and coordinate entering the items for sale?

Dan Zubal is coordinating a Volunteer Appreciation Raffle. He will purchase a number of bottles of liquor & wine. At dinner Saturday night, tickets will be passed out. Volunteers must be present to win.

New Business:

The dumpster was emptied and moved closer to the road. The dumpster corral was disassembled, the Port-O-Lets & recycling dumpster were also relocated. All this was due to erosion cutting into the bank behind the dumpster and undercutting an Elm tree. The tree is now removed.

Shelter Roof: Some shingles are breaking off, mostly from the front where the drip edge is missing, but general condition is deteriorated. One valley flashing also needs to be replaced.

Kitchen: Scott Pavey noted that the holes at the bottom of the decommissioned door are getting larger. He suggests blocking up the lower section, but meanwhile he will temporarily close those openings.

School Field Trips:

- April 21 Bonnie Johnson will bring a small group of preschoolers for a short visit. Bill Carr, Chanda & Shane Mullins will cover this.
- April 29 Roundstone First Grade class
- May 6 Laurel County Eighth Grade class
- May 12 Brodhead Second Grade class
- May 13 Brodhead First Grade Class
- May 20 Brodhead Fourth Grade Class

Some schools have not been to GSP on a field trip due to funding limitations. We will look for grant funding that can be offered to less affluent schools.

Lila Mullins Powell has requested use of the Shelter on Saturday of Memorial Day weekend for the annual Mullins Family Reunion. No objections.

The Zero-Turn is not worth fixing. It might be worth a few hundred dollars for part to repair another machine, but a second mowing device is needed at the Preserve. As a Committee, we should determine our needs and a budget for replacement. Discussion ensued about appropriate features. Further discussion to continue through email in the next few days as information becomes available.

In addition, there may be 2-3 years of working life left in the Tractor. We need to improve our maintenance of all our equipment.

Cemetery: Werner reminded us of the Mullins Family cemetery, and suggested that the Committee consider designating a plot of ground for the remains of cavers who have given a significant part of their lives to the Preserve.

NJ made a motion to adjourn, SP 2nd. Meeting ended at 10:00 pm.

**Next meeting will be:
10:00 am, Sunday May 1, 2016 at GSP Shelter.**

Calendar Summary

April 20, 2016	Wednesday Richmond Rotary Club presentation
April 21, 2016	Bonnie Johnson Preschool Field Trip
April 30, 2016	Open House work weekend
May 6, 2016	Laurel County Eighth Grade class Field Trip
May 12, 2016	Brodhead Second Grade class Field Trip
May 13, 2016	Brodhead First Grade Class Field Trip
May 14-15, 2016	Open House
May 20, 2016	Brodhead Fourth Grade Class
May 21, 2016	Larry Simpson's daughter's wedding reception
May 29, 2016	Mullins Family Reunion at Shelter
June 4, 2016	Best date for white collar dinner in the Cave
June 10-12, 2016	COG will host Pittsburg Grotto at GSP
June 17-19, 2016	KOR
August 12-14, 2016	DUG will host Wormfest at GSP