

Great Saltpetre Cave Preserve Committee Meeting

October 13, 2016 – Jerry Brandenburg’s house

Committee Members Present:

Jerry Brandenburg
Fred Ball (online)
Neena Jud
Werner Jud

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

Also attending:

Gary Bush (online @ GSP)
Bill Carr (online)
Sean Cain (online)
Bob Dobbs (online @ GSP)

Lynda Gaylor (online @ GSP)
Patrick Gibson (online)
Ralph Mann (online @ GSP)

Meeting started at 7:17 pm

Tama Cassidy’s father passed away on Wednesday 10/12/2016 and Ron Hager’s wife on Tuesday 10/11/2016. Our thoughts are with them.

Secretary’s Report:

SP made a motion to accept the minutes from last month, BR 2nd.

Caretaker’s Report:

The large dumpster has been removed, small dumpster is in corral.

Kristen’s horses have come visiting again. Bill put the cable up again, but they know other ways around the Preserve and three horses were by the front gate early this week.

Bob Dobbs & Gary Bush assisted Bill with adjusting the electric panel in the field. There was a loose fitting in the back of the panel and a new back plate has been installed.

The new screen and projector were utilized today for the School Field Trip.

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

Treasurer’s Report:

Income exceeded expenses for the month of September. Financial Report available upon request.

The historical financial information in QuickBooks is good for planning as well as verifying past transactions and confirming that promised or projected transactions actually occurred.

NJ moved to accept treasurer’s report, BR 2nd.

Old Business

Road Repair grant funding: No new information. Grant application is still going through the process.

GSP fundraising/friendraising: Dinner in the Mountain report: The event went well. All the bills (specifically printing costs) have not been received, so the final gain cannot yet be assessed. Bob has asked for a volunteer to write Thank You notes to all who bought tickets and attended. Mary Gratsch had offered to write thank yous for large donations, but since none have been received, maybe she would be willing to write the general than yous.

Strategic Plan: Date & location: Sunday, November 6, 2016 at 2:00 pm at Jerry's house. Werner Jud will prepare an agenda and distribute before the meeting. *Note that Daylight Savings Time ends that morning.*

School Field Trips: Fourth Graders were at GSP today. Bob purchased 480 stuffed bats at a cost of \$1334.80 to sell as souvenirs. Today he sold 42 for \$5 apiece and anticipates selling more tomorrow when the Second Graders visit. Bob will get the invoice to Werner and asks for reimbursement. He will also had over all the money collected from the sales.

The Rockcastle Science Club will be at GSP on October 27, 2016.

The Kentucky Flag has been replaced.

Grill: we will do maintenance on our grill and try to coast through this winter.

Mowing: Correction to last month's minutes – it was NOT Mike McGuire who mowed & baled the back field, although he was asked. He declined because the back field was not large enough to make it worth his while, a sentiment echoed (after the fact) by the other person who did mow it. (It was suggested that if we include all of Long Bottom as well as Barton Field it might be worth it.)

Bill got pricing from two mowing companies in Somerset. They both want \$50/acre.

The Pine Grove on the hillside above the Showerhouse does not need to be mowed. There is minor damage to the trunks of the trees due to the difficulty of mowing on the hillside. Although it looks nice to have it looking open, this is an easy place to reduce the mowing. A line will be established from the Showerhouse to the Outhouse above which will be allowed to go back to nature.

Tractor (specifically the three point hitch): a nut drifted off and a bolt was lost. Bill was able to find & install a replacement, but Jerry wants to get a locknut for it.

New Business:

Wheelchair for use in Cave: Bob Dobbs sent out a call on the Yahoo Groups for help to get a wheelchair that can be used during Field trips for youngsters who have mobility difficulties – like being on crutches, as one girl was today.

A suggestion was made to purchase a used Hoveround (with fat tires and shock absorbers), but that is battery operated and may require too much maintenance. Fatter tires on a regular wheelchair should make the ride smoother, but the small front wheels will be the challenge. Scott suggested that if a used wheelchair could be donated, he would modify it in his workshop so that any kid would want to ride in it.

The Lower Mondo was reported to have some issues (roof, window, porch floor). Historically, the people who use the Mondo maintain it. Since this is designated an

electric site, the Committee is willing to cover costs of life safety issues like electric or floor structure. Other repair items will be left to the users.

Jerry made a motion to purchase four sheets of 4' x 8' x 3/4" pressure treated plywood to fix the entire porch. NJ 2nd. No objections. Bill will verify the porch dimensions and check pricing at Lumber King.

Blue paint graffiti in Signature Alley: On 9/25/2016 Bob Roth brought Kristen Bobo with Caver Art Research Team to inspect and comment on this graffiti. She found five locations. They are all below the "sediment removal line", the level from which miners extracted the dirt, so no prehistoric graffiti will be found. Since one included a date of 1961 all are now classified as historic, and therefore should not be removed. Furthermore, close inspection shows some faint orange-tan graffiti nearby determined to be from the early 1900's. There is a Nov. 1856 date near one location.

In addition, she shared a photograph of a panel of "abstract art", possibly prehistoric. The lower section of the photo clearly has numerous grooves which are often found when wire brushes have been used to remove graffiti. She explained that irreparable damage can result from using wire brushes.

Lastly, she shared a photograph of recent graffiti – from May 2016. She recommends having ALL visitors to the cave sign in so that any new damage can be tracked and possibly prosecuted.

Bill Carr mentioned that sometime during John Wisher's term as chair of the GSP Committee (1992-1997), another cave graffiti expert visited the Cave and talked to the Committee. Bill said that at that time the Committee voted to not remove any more graffiti.

As Stewards of the Preserve, we are constantly juggling access and protection. Please carefully consider this issue, we will address it further at the GSP Strategic Planning meeting.

Photographer friend of Ralph Hacker wants to visit the Preserve and take pictures. Bob Dobbs is coordinating.

Lyla Mullins Powell requested the use of the Shelter this Saturday, October 15, 2016 at 4:00 pm for her grandson Andrew's birthday party. No objections.

Tony Renner will help with the School Field Trip on Friday. Bob will discuss the Friends of GSP concept with him to see if he would like to be involved. One perk for the Friends volunteers might be a weekend or two each year during which they could bring family to appreciate the Preserve.

Ricky Elkins writes an outdoor column for the Richmond Register. It also runs in other papers. He will come to the Preserve Friday afternoon and talk with Gary about what we are doing at GSP.

Light on the American Flag: Gary Bush expressed concern that we are disrespecting the American Flag which is on the flagpole near the kiosk. Proper flag etiquette says that either it must be illuminated at night or struck at dusk and raised in the morning.

Werner found a solar powered LED flag light that could be installed at the top of the flagpole to shine down on the flag and not shine upwards where it might affect birds

and bats. Gary agreed that a “Night Sky Compliant” fixture would be desirable as excess light also interferes with human’s ability to see the stars. We must verify that the solar array provides sufficient battery power last through the night.

Jerry will get and install one of these fixtures.

Bill Carr suggested restoring the pulleys and rope on the flagpole.

WJ made a motion to adjourn, SP 2nd. Meeting ended at 8:43 pm.

Next meeting will be:

7:00 pm, Thursday November 10, 2016 at Jerry Brandenburg’s house.

Calendar Summary

October 14, 2016	Second Grade School Field Trip
October 15, 2016	Andrew Powell’s birthday party at Shelter
October 27, 2016	Rockcastle High School Science Club Field Trip
November 6, 2016	GSP Strategic Planning Meeting