

Great Saltpetre Cave Preserve Committee Meeting

November 10, 2016 – Jerry Brandenburg’s house

Committee Members Present:

Jerry Brandenburg

Tama Cassidy (online)

Neena Jud

Werner Jud

Scott Pavey

Bob Roth (online)

Dan Zubal (online)

Also attending:

Bill Carr (online)

Bob Dobbs

Patrick Gibson (online)

Meeting started at 7:18 pm

Deer Season (gun) starts Saturday, November 12, 2016 and goes until November 27. Be careful when hiking in the woods, wear orange.

Secretary’s Report:

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

Caretaker’s Report:

When opening the front gate, please lift the gate and rotate it around. Dragging the gate open seems to abrade the top of the pivot post, causing miss-alignment of the tongue in the lock post.

The outside shower has been shut down for the winter. Bill will try to keep the Showerhouse main building going through this weekend.

The composting bin donated by Ralph Mann comes apart very easily. The upper section has been knocked over a number of times, presumably by critters.

At the beginning of the year when David Lee was using the measuring wheel, caps came off the axle. He took it home to get it fixed, but it has not been returned.

There is a fire ban in Rockcastle County now. This is different than past bans because no fires are allowed at all, at any time. There is an announcement on the Mt. Vernon Fire Department facebook page. It states: “All outdoor burning of any kind is prohibited. Any outdoor burning is subject to criminal charges as long as the ban is in effect.” There are currently 33 or more fires in Rockcastle & Laurel counties putting significant amounts of smoke in the air.

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

Treasurer’s Report:

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

Bill Carr suggested that the higher water bill may be due to Shawn Loveless filling his water tank from the hose bibb at the Showerhouse when he services the Port-O-Lets. There were additional servicings this month due to Field Trips and DIM.

DZ moved to accept treasurer’s report, SP 2nd.

Old Business

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

Dinner in the Mountain: All expenses have been received and final accounting is complete. Net profit was \$ 7,421.97, which RKC will split with GSP. These funds came all from ticket sales, no additional Charitable Contributions have been received. Thank you notes have been sent.

Strategic Planning Meeting went well with reasonable attendance. Minutes are in process and will be distributed to all who attended plus Committee members, RKC Board, and GCG, BGG, DUG, COG Executive Boards.

School Field Trips have ended for the year. GSP received \$1101.00 income from School Filed trips in the form of donations or sales of souvenirs.

Mowing: Bill Carr found information from 2001 Convention, in which Wayne Barton noted the area he mowed was 22 acres. This does not include the Back Field.

No new developments, but mowing will be needed soon enough.

Wheelchair for use in Cave: Ralph Mann provided a used wheelchair to Scott Pavey so he can modify it.

The Lower Mondo repair: Dan Zubal and Jerry Brandenburg have a plan. Dan has pricing on the pressure treated plywood. ¾” thick pressure treated plywood is available from Lumber King.

Also needed is a replacement window. Rough opening is 35” wide x 37” high. Jerry will acquire a window for this.

Light on the American Flag: Gary Bush and Jerry Brandenburg are working on the light for the flagpole.

Ricky Elkins wrote the article which was published in the Richmond Register on November 4, 2016.

New Business:

Article for Newspapers: Dan Zubal would like an article to be prepared for the Mt. Vernon Signal that would include some statistics about visitation, especially scouts and school field trips. It was suggested to include photos. Resolved that Dan Zubal will prepare a skeleton of an article and all Committee members shall provide input to develop it into a finished article.

Funds from Dinner in the Mountain: Much discussion ensued about constructing an Education Center at GSP. Objections were to constructing another building with its primary purpose to show a video to school children. It was suggested that we plan the Educational Programming (including above ground nature education as well) before we plan an Educational Center. Proponents said that the students come for a specific field trip with a focus on caves, bats and water flowing through karst lands. An intermediate step would be to enable a quicker transformation of the Shelter into a theater. It was also stated that most Parks or Preserves with a Nature focus have some building as a Visitor’s Center which also include space in which students could gather or watch a video.

The Committee decided that this money will go into a set-aside fund for Capital Improvements. This may be Shelter roof repair, Entrance road re-construction, Educational Center or something else similar. Since there is not enough money to do any one of those, we tabled a decision to spend it. In January we will investigate the cost to re-roof the Shelter, a project that needs to happen soon.

The Ticket House has issues with settlement. Bob Roth has offered to lead a project to repair/restore/rebuild the Ticket House with others. He asks that if you are interested in helping with this to please email him. He anticipates it will take the better part of a year to accomplish, but it must be started by assessing what we have to work with and developing cost projections. Many stones from the collapsed side have been pilfered away. Possibly Tony Renner, local resident, caver and mason, could help locate replacement stone.

WJ made a motion to adjourn, SP 2nd. Meeting ended at 9:04 pm.

Next meeting will be:

7:00 pm, Thursday December 8, 2016 at Jerry Brandenburg's house.

Calendar Summary

December 11, 2016

RKC meeting