

Great Saltpetre Cave Preserve Committee Meeting

January 12, 2017 – Jerry Brandenburg’s house

Committee Members Present:

Jerry Brandenburg

Tama Cassidy (online)

Neena Jud

Werner Jud

Bob Roth (online)

Scott Pavey

Dan Zubal (online)

Also attending:

Bill Carr (online)

Sean Cain (online)

Bob Dobbs

Patrick Gibson (online)

Jeff Young

Meeting started at 7:05 pm

Secretary’s Report:

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

Caretaker’s Report:

It’s been quiet down at the Preserve lately, just waiting winter out.

Bill took two dogs to the pound which had been hanging out at the Preserve.

General information for those getting supplies: the Plumbing shop across the highway from Lumber King is closed. There is now an Ace Hardware next to IGA.

Treasurer’s Report:

Expenses exceeded Income in December 2016. Financial Report available upon request.

Old Business

Road Repair grant funding: No new information on the grant. But looking ahead at the schedule, the best window of time to plan for the construction work is the two months between Open House (May) and KOR (July).

The Strategic Plan was accepted by GCG Executive Board. Bob Dobbs asked Werner to forward the final accepted plan to RKC.

Wheelchair for use in Cave: Scott has a wheelchair (or two), but has not had much time recently to work on the modifications. He has some ideas. Neena mentioned Spun Bicycles in Northside as a possible source for fat tires as well as experience modifying bikes. Harbor Freight also has tires that might work.

Light on the American Flag: Gary discussed his research with Dennis and Werner at the Grotto meeting. One solar powered light that he found costs \$40. It has a five star review, but Gary is concerned that the battery is not sufficient to make it to morning. Nonetheless, this is an inexpensive first try. The back-up plan is to hard wire an LED flood light on the top of the flagpole aimed down at the flag.

Article for Newspapers: Dan Zubal will send something out next week to the paper.

The Ticket House Bob Roth has compiled a bit of history on this building. He is looking for early photos of the Ticket House when it was in use.

Upon inspection, Bob found that the North wall is constructed of 8" concrete block with an 8" stone veneer layer. The East (back) wall is 8" concrete block. The South wall at the old toilet room is 8" concrete block which had an 8" stone veneer layer, but the portion along the main room was wood framed with stone veneer. The West (front) wall may be the same. The roof beams appear to bear on the stone veneer.

Bill asked if anyone remembers a stone wall along the south side, because he remembers tearing out an old wooden one. Werner's memory (of when he was 10 to 13) is that there was stone along that face. Discussion ensued about Bill Bostick, Gilmer Prewitt and old Mr. Renner (Tony's father) who were all involved in projects at GSP around this time. We hope to find more information from them or their descendants.

JB repeated his desire to leave in place all the stones that are currently intact.

Bob would like to repair the Ticket House so that no band-aids will be needed for another fifty years. He would like to complete the project by Open House 2018.

Display Case Since the last meeting, Werner ordered the data logger. He gave it to Jeff Young at tonight's meeting. He also recommended that Jeff as project manager should work closely with just one person as a representative of the Committee with more familiarity with the Cave, the wiring and history of work therein. This could minimize the back & forth with the Committee, reducing it to the larger aspects of the project.

A few people prefer that the artifact case stay in the Museum Section. But we realize that if electricity is needed for it, then locating it by Booger Branch may be appropriate.

BC offered to walk in the Cave monthly to gather data from the logger. Bob Roth asked if anyone has contacted a university to see if a grad student wants to do a project with the data that is collected. Bob Dobbs mentioned that George Ridings knows the President of ECU who would know an Archaeology professor.

Discussion of searching on the internet for "air tight display cases". One company making museum air tight display cases was found at goppion.com

Anyone doing projects at GSP is to provide project documentation upon completion. Papers are needed from Millie Westmont on the pipe joint, Amber Yuellig & Lee Florea on Ground Penetrating Radar in Echo Auditorium, and Amber Yuellig on Archaeological dig in a vat site in Richard's Run. *Annette Summers Engle did provide an article for the Electric Caver (March 1998) which addressed the connection between Hard Baker and Great Saltpetre Caves.*

New Business:

Werner Jud proposed getting a bronze plaque honoring Ellie Schiller, former director of the Felburn Foundation who first suggested forming a non-profit organization to hold ownership of GSP. He estimates the cost might be \$2000 (smaller than the NRHP sign). He suggested it might be installed along the route to the Cave, maybe at a bench near the base of the steps.

He also proposed another smaller plaque to be installed on the Green Latrine recognizing Neena Jud as the architect for the structure (as Bill Bostic placed his name

on the Ticket House). It would be smaller than 8" x 16" and would be paid for out of the remaining Green Latrine funds.

Jerry suggested considering establishing a Legacy Wall somewhere that could display the names of people who have contributed significant time and effort to the Preserve.

A potential new GSP Treasurer was proposed by Dan Zubal. Kevin Lorms is a very involved caver who recently moved to Central Ohio from New Mexico. He is now a member of COG and visited the Preserve during Christmas break with Wendy Orlandi and other COG members. He has more time available and offers his name for consideration.

Discussion ensued. It bears repeating that the distance from Columbus to GSP poses a big challenge to participating in the maintenance of the Preserve as well as managing the finances and relationships with suppliers & services. In addition, the Committee Charter specifies that the Treasurer along with the Chair are to be GCG members. If Kevin gets more involved at the Preserve, we can revisit the offer.

We should get another pressure regulator so that we can replace the next one in the main water line this year.

Open House: Wendy has offered to run the kitchen again, would appreciate a budget. We will ask the JrROTC for assistance. Boy Scout Troops may also be able to help. Securable donation boxes were suggested for at the Shelter. The clear donation jars at the Kitchen window were filled. The cans on the tables had very little.

Announcements

Mr. McQueen, neighboring property owner of Chisel Cave, passed away recently. It might be wise to ask the family if it is still OK to access the property and visit the cave. Ralph Mann was suggested as a good person to handle the communication.

New officers for COG include: Brian Devine – chair, Nathan Canaris – Vice Chair, Bethany Widmayer – Secretary, and Wendy Orlandi – Treasurer. Patrick Gibson is now past chair.

SP made a motion to adjourn, WJ 2nd. Meeting ended approx. 9:10 pm.

**Next meeting will be:
7:00 pm, Thursday February 9, 2017 at Jerry Brandenburg's house.**