

Great Saltpetre Cave Preserve

Committee Meeting

June 14, 2018 – Jerry Brandenburg's house

Committee Members Present:

Jerry Brandenburg
Fred Ball (online)
Elizabeth Copelin (online)

Neena Jud
Werner Jud
Dan Zubal (online)

Also attending:

Bill Carr (online)
Bill Addington
Patrick Gibson (online)

Ron Hager (online)
Bob Roth (online)

7:17 the meeting was called to order.

Secretary's report: Dan Zubal made a motion to accept the minutes from the last month's meeting, FB 2nd.

Caretaker's report

Bill Carr reports that the cave lock is not working very well. Darryl could not open it with his key. Fred will find another lock in that series, set it for the current key and send it to Bill. In the meantime, it was suggested to use a Showerhouse lock.

We used a small dumpster during KOR. This saved \$440 on the dumpster cost.

Bill will have Shawn Loveless take two Port-O-Lets to get us back to four next to the dumpster.

Bill reports that a "lake" developed in front of the showerhouse. Dustin dug up the drain pipe along the road.

Jackson County Rural Electric Cooperative folks decided to go ahead and replace the pole above the cave.

Gravel is needed on the main road through the campground. A tree is down.

There were difficulties with WiFi during KOR. The service was insufficient at times to deal with credit cards at the Guano Grille as well as the vendors. Bill found that we can change to fiberoptic service if the Engineer approves it. We would get 12-15 mbs rather than our current 1 mbs, but we would be issued a different phone number. Bill also sees a problem with the phone line draped down the hill from the Ticket House to the Shelter.

All agreed that Bill should ask Windstream to visit GSP at no charge to make a recommendation and give us costs for changing service.

Treasurer's report

Income exceeded Expenses for the month of May. Financial report available upon request.

We have not received any disbursement from KYEM (Kentucky Emergency Management) for the Road Repair project.

The income from inventoried merchandise at Open House seems extremely low. According to the sales tally sheets and Square reports, hardly any t-shirts were sold which is very inconsistent with past years. Neena commented that no Saltpetre Empires books were available to sell, and that we had very few t-shirts in stock. A physical inventory will be taken. Werner will send out an updated report on Open House.

Fred Ball made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report, DZ 2nd.

Old Business

Road Repair: We are waiting for reimbursement from KYEM/FEMA. The road is working. Friday evening before Open House there was a major downpour that lasted about an hour. Those under the Shelter were able to see water flowing in the swales to the catchbasins, and then shooting out of the upper culvert. Werner drove up the road in the rain and saw water overflowing the end of the swale. He found that debris was clogging the catchbasin grate, opened it up, and all the water swirled down the drain.

Water from both culverts soaked the parking area contributing to muddy conditions the next two days. If the linear drain installed a few years ago for vendor's row was working, the rain would not have ponded at the edge of the road. Mike Bustle knows exactly what to do to fix that. Werner is waiting for Road Repair reimbursements to come in before giving him the go ahead.

Volunteers heard complements on the road at Open House.

Ticket House: It is buttoned up for now. Bob Roth expects to be down again next week.

Open House: We were just about at capacity this year.

	Cars	People in Cars	People in Cave
Saturday	560	1952	1871
Sunday	<u>589</u>	<u>1948</u>	<u>1930</u>
	1129	3900	3801

What is the ultimate goal of this Open House? It is not to make big bucks (although all donations help). Many at the meeting are not in favor of charging an entrance fee. We feel an obligation to open it up to the community.

Discussion ensued about how to control the growth of this event. Suggestions included cutting back on flyers (which are advertisements to the community); cutting back, changing or stopping the facebook postings; present some warnings

– may encounter crowds & long lines; consider more pressure to encourage people to donate; reduce drive gate closing time to 3:30 or 3:00.

Patrick Gibson composed a thank you letter to JROTC and sent a draft to the Committee. BC suggested giving a donation to them for a party or something. Last year we gave a GSP T-shirt or hat to the cadets. Patrick will contact Sgt. Keith Graves to see the best way to do this and to whom to address a check. A value was suggested.

After the event, COG members gathered to discuss and write down what worked this year and what they thought could be improved in the kitchen. Dan Zubal sent that list to the Committee. All are asked to review the items for discussion in the upcoming months.

If the kitchen is too overwhelming, and we would like all our volunteers to be free to give tours rather than work in the kitchen, it was reported that Livingston Fire Department is willing to take it on. But some at the meeting are not willing to give up providing the free soup beans. Rockcastle County is one of the poorest counties in the state.

Model T group: Bluegrass Backroads T's visited GSP on Thursday June 7, just before KOR. Thirty vehicles with 80 people arrived at 10 am and left about 1 pm. Bill Addington was the point of contact and had plenty of tour guides to help. They broke into groups of about 20 people. Despite BA's recommendations on sturdy footwear, one lady wore flip-flops, slipped and fell at the beginning of Pinch-Em-Tight Alley. Livingston Fire Department provided lunch for the group and were happy with the amount they received for this catered lunch. BA received cash and check donations from individuals as well as the group as a whole. Werner will send a receipt for just the check amount to the group.

Calendar: Found on the GSP website under Committee. Neena sent an email to Committee members with the password to the calendar and asking each grotto to determine which grotto leaders should have posting rights in addition to the Committee members. Please remember that the intent of this calendar is to serve the caving community.

New Business:

Bill Walden: Bob Roth reported that on Thursday before KOR, Bill Walden had a heart attack. He is now at home and recuperating. *On June 15, 2018, Bill Walden passed away.*

Mike Hood also had a heart attack. *Mike is recuperating well.*

Blackberries: As the season is approaching, Bill Addington raised the idea – is it worthwhile to plant some berry bushes in the back field? Not only are they a treat for humans, but they also provide food for wildlife. No objections were heard. The idea was tabled until BA can make a full report.

Neena Jud made a motion to adjourn, DZ 2nd. 8:56 pm

**Next meeting will be:
7:00 pm, Thursday July 12, 2018 at Jerry Brandenburg's house**

Calendar Summary:

June 15-17, 2018	Friends of the Adlers, Mark Adler sponsor
June 22, 2018	Lyla Mullins' work group
June 29-July 1, 2018	HAGS Cleveland (Girl Scouts)
July 11, 2018	Richmond Police Dept. disadvantaged teens' field trip
July 12, 2018	Sonlight Christian Preschool
July 20-22, 2018	Cub Scout Pack 104
July 21-22, 2018	Adventure Women of Cincinnati, Angela Pullano, sponsor
July 27-29, 2018	BSA Troop 349
July 27-29, 2018	Foxboro Neighborhood Trip, Mark Swelstad sponsor
August 3 - 5, 2018	BSA Troop 161 & GSA Troop 1895
August 10-12, 2018	BSA Troops 112 & 555
August 17-19, 2018	BSA Troops 850 & another
August 24-26, 2018	BSA Troops 170, 617 & 646
September 7-9, 2018	BSA Troops 141, 320
September 8, 2018	Caver Appreciation weekend