

**Friends of the Little Miami State Park  
Board of Directors' Meeting 10/10/2018  
Wayne Township Administration Bldg, OH  
Meeting Minutes**

**Call to Order:** Steve Murphy

**Introduction of Members and Guests:** Steve Murphy (5 min)

Board members present: Bruce Cortright, Dick Feldmann, Rick Forester, Ron Gorley, Steve Murphy

Guests attending: Jim Mason, Tom McCray, Don Mills, Judy Mills

**Approval of Minutes from Sep 12:** Janet Slater (5 min)

Rick motioned to approve, Bruce seconded, passed unanimously.



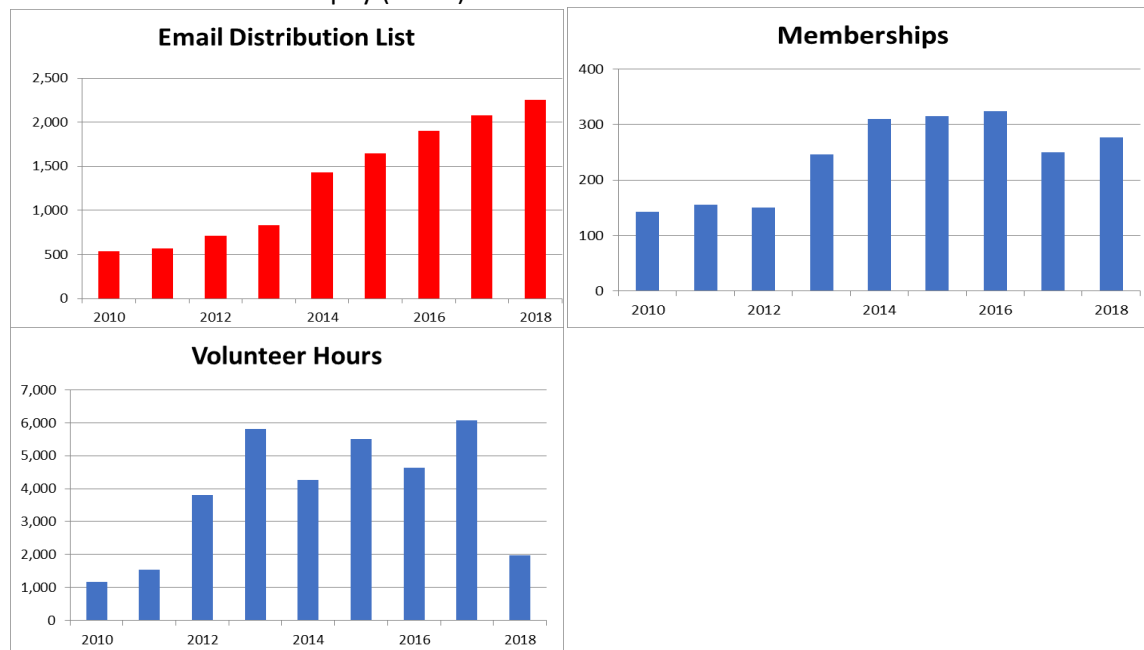
BoardMinutes2018-0  
9-12.pdf

**Treasurer's Report** - Dick Feldmann (5 min)

|                      |                   | <b>As of 09/30/2018</b> |                               |
|----------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Cash On Hand:</b> | <b>09/07/2018</b> | <b>09/30/2018</b>       |                               |
| Savings Account      | \$32,172.20       | 32,172.20               |                               |
| Checking Account     | <u>7,197.05</u>   | <u>27,274.69</u>        |                               |
| <b>Total</b>         | \$39,369.25       | \$59,946.89             | +\$20,577.44 \$2,000 reserved |

Ron moved to restrict the \$20,000 donation from Robert Osher to "Trail Safety." This is consistent with his preference stated in a conversation with Steve Murphy. Rick seconded, passed unanimously.

**FLMSP Metrics:** Steve Murphy (0 min)



|                          | <u>9/12/17</u> | <u>9/12/18</u> | <u>+/-</u> | <u>%</u> |                                                   |
|--------------------------|----------------|----------------|------------|----------|---------------------------------------------------|
| Email Distribution List: | 2,239          | 2,250          | +11        | .5       |                                                   |
| Memberships:             | 267            | 277            | +10        | 3.7      | Same time last year: 242<br>End of year 2017: 253 |
| Volunteer Hours:         | 1,979          |                |            |          |                                                   |
| Facebook "Likes":        | 1,147          |                |            |          |                                                   |
| Twitter followers:       | 49             |                |            |          |                                                   |

1. **Janet.** Janet had a successful 9-hour surgery on October 3 to remove the cancer. The surgery was deemed a success; chemotherapy will follow.

As an organization, we need to assume that Janet will not be able to or may not want to resume her roles as Secretary and Communication Director. We will now come to know first-hand how much Janet has been doing for us.

Dick motioned to spend up to \$150 for flowers to be sent to Janet. Rick seconded, passed unanimously. Dick will order.

Ron will ask Janet whether we need to ask Brian Sullivan or others to pick some of the Secretary responsibilities.

## 2. **ODNR.**

- a. Construction at the Spring Valley and Ft Ancient sites are complete. The trail is open and we don't anticipate any additional closures for these projects. There is some final clean up and restoration still to do. The bank stabilization portion of the projects still need some top soil, planting, and mulching. Over 300 trees will be planted in the area of these 3 projects but that will take place late fall.
- b. Flail mower was delivered last week and crews began 10/9/18 in Loveland. They will work Loveland-south and then move north. Mowing will continue until the end of October.
- c. On Monday October 22, Don Mills and Melissa Clark of ODNR will conduct a 50-mile end-to-end reconnaissance marking those intersection trees that can be cut beginning November 1.
- d. The tree cutting will not be a blitz of the entire trail as we did last year. From November 1-16, I have the following priorities:
  - Fell trees in the Oregonia section so that the much needed ditch work can be done. This is not a selective cut, everything between the trail and ditch will be removed.
  - Fell trees that are currently causing issues with the new pavement. A handful of trees have been identified that are already causing root bumps. All interested parties need to get these locations of interest to Don Mills prior to October 22, so he and Melissa can look at them on their survey of the trail.

- Fell remaining trees in the new pavement area that have the potential to cause root bumps. These have been identified as trees that caused problems in the past. I realize there are other trees that still need to come down. Several months ago, we agreed protecting the new pavement is a priority. If we get through the above list, that will be a positive accomplishment for 2 weeks of work. We will have to work on additional trees as staffing allows. I'm not saying we won't make any further progress but I don't want to make additional commitments until the above list is complete.
- e. We will have the district mini-excavator from November 1-16 and some assistance from Caesar Creek and the skid steer during that time as well.
- f. Encroachments
  - Fosters: Survey has been completed. I am waiting on a final report, and then with ODNR administration will decide how best to proceed. The restroom there is on DNR property, a maintenance agreement exists between ODNR and Hamilton Twp. and then Hamilton Twp entered an agreement with the owner of the Train Stop for maintenance. Land and Water Conservation Fund money was involved in the acquisition of those properties which places restrictions on how the property can be used. There is also an easement for the properties to the north which complicates things even more. Looking at initial survey results, the encroachment appears to be significantly larger than I anticipated.
  - (former) McCracken property: waiting on survey, land owner has indicated his intention to install a fence along the property line.
- g. Dead trees at Village Grocery. Dead trees at Village Grocery: I made contact with Cincinnati Bell yesterday and they still plan to get the trees down. FLMSR to revisit this topic if not taken care of by Christmas 2018.
- h. We are currently assessing change orders from the construction projects to see how much, if any funds remain. We hope to be able to complete additional work in this current contract. We have requested estimates for 4 additional projects of immediate concern and have received them for item a, b, and c below.
  - Culvert replacement and trail shift south of Morrow, MM 29.25
  - Bridge deck replacement just north of Beech Road
  - Replacement of Beech Road culvert
  - Bridge pier repairs for O'Bannon Creek bridge
- i. Trees of the Trail: Sunday October 21 2pm: Take a walk along the Little Miami Scenic Trail with our Park Naturalist to experience the trees in their autumn splendor. Learn about this important ecological community and how it helps to protect the quality of the Little Miami River. Meet in the public parking lot at the Ft Ancient Scenic River Access on SR 350, adjacent to Morgan's Canoe Livery.
- j. Next year is the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Little Miami State Park: It's time to start planning for any special events we would like to see next year. I saw there was a group discussing the possibilities...these things take time to plan and I suggest getting that smaller committee together as soon as possible. State Park Naturalists are already solidifying next year's calendar of events, if you want assistance and attendance from the park side, we at least need to get dates set.

**3. Treasurer's Report:** Dick Feldmann (5 min)

- We are in receipt of Dr. Osher's \$20,000 donation.
- Interact for Health donation check to FLMSF for \$2,500 is missing. Will make one more look and then FLMSF will offer to pay for the stop payment fee of that check so replacement can be issued.
- Network Solutions now directly providing website and privacy protection.
- Paid fee to for Green Umbrella membership.

**4. Strategic Plan.**

- CONDITION, SAFETY, **VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT**, CONVENIENCE, BEAUTY

**5. Capital/Operational Funding:** Ron Gorley

- **ODNR Capital Budget 2014:** Still no news on contingency funds left over from the 2014 ODNR Biannual Capital Budget.
- **State Funding 2018:** \$200,000 in community funding. Timing desire: make sure we have a spending commitment by mid 2020, when we will likely ask for additional community-based funding. Up until then, look for best opportunity to use in a matching grant.
- **ODNR Capital Budget 2018:** Still no news on any new funding from the 2018 biannual ODNR Biannual Capital Budget. Expect to hear only after the new Governor's administration is in office in January.

**6. Plaques:** Steve Murphy.

- Quantity seven 7"x9" \$26 each = \$182 plus tax



PlaqueDonMills.JPG



PlaquePaulMorgan.pdf

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**7. Invasive Control.** Jim Mason (10 min)

- On September 19 Don Mills, Steve Murphy, and Jim Mason performed a 50-mile, end to end trail reconnaissance for the purpose of determining this year's need for Invasive Control, i.e. spraying.



InvasiveControl\_Intersections.pdf

- Quote for intersections \$2,100.
- Motion to spend \$2,100 for intersection visibility through invasive control from Dick, seconded by Ron and passed unanimously. (Funds to come from the restricted Trail Safety account).



InvasiveControl\_Views  
AndVistas.pdf

- Quote for views and vistas \$3,400 - \$500 (chemicals) = \$2,900.
- Motion to spend \$2,900 for view and vista enhancement through invasive control from Dick, seconded by Ron and passed unanimously.
- Donation of labor from Jim Mason's Horticultural Management, Inc. \$4,000.
- Tree of Heaven (Ailanthus) south of Corwin about 400-500 feet. Time to surface treat is anytime now up through February.

## 8. Culverts and Drainage: Tom McCray (10 min)



Drainage Status High  
Priority Sort 09Oct20

## 9. Trail Safety:



### • Intersection Safety

On August 16<sup>th</sup> of this year, we met with a representative of the local family foundation who spoke passionately, even emotionally, about his love of the trail and what it has meant to him over the past 10 years. He also spoke about “giving back”:

The donor only asks that we place 4 small, discrete recognition plaques beginning in Terrace Park and spaced 5 miles apart going north with the inscription ““Trail improvements made possible by a generous donation from the Ocher Family Foundation”.

**The Safety Ask:** Have added “Purpose of Donation” to the web site. This drop-down field has two choices, i.e. “General Purpose” and “Safety”. If “Safety” is chosen, an email is sent to [treasurer@flmsp.org](mailto:treasurer@flmsp.org) and to [president@flmsp.org](mailto:president@flmsp.org).



TheSafetyAsk.pdf

## **Status and Vote:**



IntersectionStatusAnd  
Vote2018-10-10.pdf

Warren County painted crosswalk “ladders” on 9 intersections and asks that we reimburse them for the Adams Road intersection because that intersection is owned by Hamilton Township --- not Warren County. The reimbursement amount is \$1,050 which is the same as A&A Safety’s price for painting crosswalk “ladders”.

Dick motioned to reimburse Warren County \$1,050 for painting the Adams Road intersection (to come from the restricted Trail Safety account). Seconded by Ron and passed unanimously.



Intersection  
Status.docx

Attached is the current status of intersection safety improvements.

- **Trail sentinel program.** Don Hahn (10 minutes)
  - This request your OK with FLMSP moving forward with a Trail Sentinel program on the trail as outlined below. Yes. Melissa.
  - Program Overview.
    - We need to document what we find and do as Sentinels and share the info as appropriate for getting results and tracking what we do—>plan to use Trail Hotline and website  
Record Hours” system for reporting issues and time.
    - Sentinels should have some type of uniform, probably a shirt or vest that identifies us as a Sentinel
    - Sentinels need to commit to 50 hours per year of patrolling/commuting/meeting/training—>have dropped this requirement
    - Sentinels should apply in writing, have background check, do “ride-along,” and be expected to attend meetings on some frequency.—>have dropped these requirements
    - Sentinels must sign ODNR Volunteer Agreement
  - Clothing. Vests from A&A Safety.
- **Imminent Safety Issues.**
  - Three trees at Village Grocery. Cincinnati Bell will remedy.
  - Fence at Mile Marker 42.9. Rich Easterly will compare the quotes from EADS and Mills Fence and make a recommendation.

- Fence at Mile Marker 44.3. Rich Easterly will make a recommendation on using a commercial vendor, e.g. EADS.

#### **10. Trail Surface.** Ron Gorley

- **Outreach.**
  - ODOT District 8 Brianne Hetzel
  - ODOT District 8 Tommy Arnold
  - OKI Summer Jones
  - MVRPC Matt Lindsay

#### **11. Trail Condition:**

- Fences. Riverview Park. Rich Easterly.
- Interact for Health has deemphasized trail investment.
- Ditch north of the propane plant in Miamiville. Bruce Cortright.

#### **12. Trail Convenience/Amenities**

- **GIS.** Dick Feldmann
- **Rest and Information Centers.** Spring Valley, Corwin, Oregonia, Ft Ancient St Rt 350, Morrow
- **Benches**
  - Remove dilapidated bench in Corwin.
  - Marty Holliday

#### **13. Outreach/Events**

- Little Miami State Park 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary, i.e. 1979.

#### **14. Meeting Schedule.**

- November      Hamilton Township

Motion to adjourn from Ron, seconded by Rick, passed unanimously.

#### **Next Board Meeting:**

November 14, 2018, 6:30 PM Hamilton Twp Community Center, 131 US-22/3, Maineville, OH 45039

