

**Friends of the Little Miami State Park
ZOOM Online General Board Meeting October 13, 2020
Meeting Minutes**

Call to Order: Steve Murphy

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

Board Members: Steve Murphy, Dick Feldmann, Becky Retzer, Rick Forrester, Larry Bloomfield, Bruce Cortright

Board Members Excused: Ron Gorley

Guests: Melissa (ODNR), Jim Mason

Approval of Minutes from 2020-09-09: Becky Retzer

Becky motioned that the minutes from 09/09/2020 be approved, Bruce seconded.

Treasurer's Report: Dick Feldmann (5 min)

Cash on Hand:	8/31/2020	9/30/2020	Change +/-
Unrestricted	\$40,905	\$41,231	+326
Restricted	18,311	14,135	(4,176)
Safety	5,695	3,311	
Memorial bench & Kiosk	12,616	10,824	
Reserved	4,552	4,420	(132)
Pollinator garden program	1,350	1,350	
Corwin Shelter	2,202	2,070	
Spring Valley crosswalks & signs	1,000	1,000	
Operating Account	21,418	17,429	(3,989)
Savings Account	42,350	42,357	+7
Receivables	0	0	0
Total	\$63,768	\$59,786	(3,982)

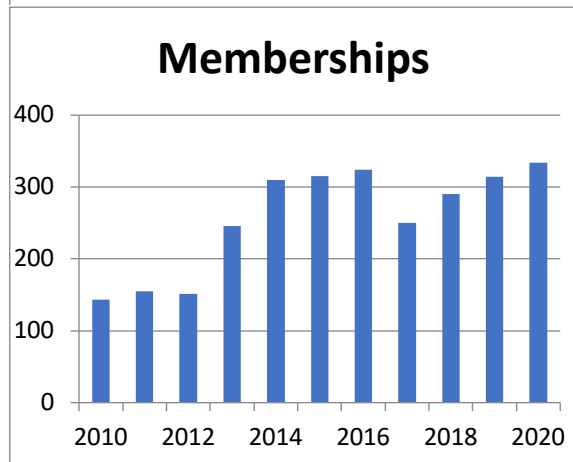
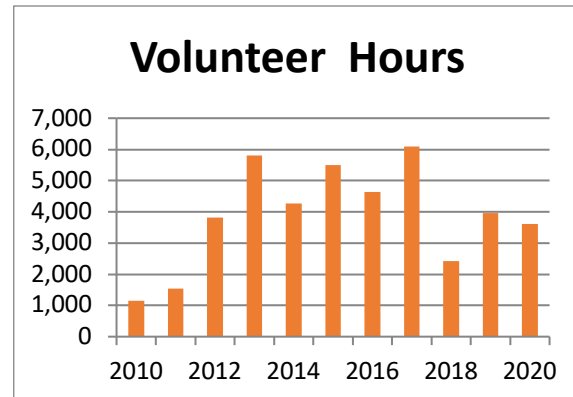
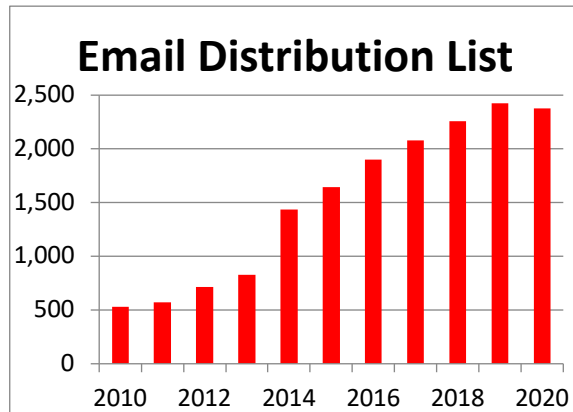
Treasurer's Narrative: Dick Feldmann

- Financial Statement for September sent to board on October 9th.
- Major Income items:
 - Donation of \$1,000 from The Jack and Carol Adam Family Fund
 - Donation of \$1,500 from Barbara Huhn for Memorial Bench
- Major Expense items approved and paid:
 - LED Stop Sign for Rt. 126 at Wards Corner, Miamiville: \$2,384
 - RJ Thomas for 2 Memorial benches: \$2,132
 - RJ Thomas for Memorial bench: \$1,160

Metrics: Steve Murphy (5 min)

	<u>09-09-2020</u>	<u>10-14-2020</u>	<u>+/-</u>
Email Distribution List:	2,375	2,377	+2
Memberships:	323	334	+11
Same time last year:	210	210	+0
End of year 2019:	321	321	+0

Volunteer Hours:	3,038	3,613	+575
Facebook "Followers":	1,624	1,655	+31
Facebook "Likes":	1,521	1,521	+0
Twitter "Followers":	57	57	+0
Twitter "Likes":	33	33	+0



Strategic Plan.

1. Safety
2. Condition & Drainage
3. Volunteer Management
4. Amenities/Convenience
5. Beauty

1. ODNR.

- From the desk of Melissa Clark.
 - She does not anticipate getting a budget for park level.
 - No Capital budget yet – not sure one is anticipated
 - Pre-bid meeting for 3 bridges scheduled tomorrow and may include berms in Morrow. Bids will be due within a couple of weeks. Within next month should have an update.
 - Replace in kind bids

- Alternative – may include widening the bridges and different materials. Faster and most likely cheaper to replace in kind.
- Shelter coming along (See below)
- Casey has some help towards the end of this season. Painting of wooden signs.
- Signs have been ordered from ODOT for dangerous intersection ahead. Order is in Columbus but needs separated out.
- Reviewed the document with the tasks by month:
 - Feb-Mar: invasive winter creeper – must treat not just cut.
 - April – May: clear invasive and other low vegetation – must make sure we are clear on what is being cleared.
- Rt. 126 was approved for putting water line under trail.
- Rick requested a map of trail that shows private land – Melissa stated that she can send him specific areas. (for cutting honeysuckle)

2. FLMSP.

- Annual Meeting.

Both Dick, Ron and sent emails with suggestions on how to hold our Annual Meeting in the midst of COVID-19 restrictions

After discussion the board agreed to send a notice to our current membership (including those who have paid dues) with an invitation to the meeting. We will feature the year's accomplishments and challenges and include the election of Board Members. The notice will advise the members to respond

Notice to our membership (that have paid dues) – invite them to the meeting, put on a show & tell which includes the election of the Board members. (see Dick's notes from Buckeye Trail meeting)

Below is the slate of candidates that will be presented at the postponed Annual Meeting.

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|------|
| • Steve Murphy, President | 2-year term | 2021 |
| • Ron Gorley, Vice President | 2-year term | 2021 |
| • Dick Feldmann, Treasurer | 2-year term | 2021 |
| • Becky Retzer, Secretary | 1-year term | 2020 |
| • Bruce Cortright, Member at Large | 2-year term | 2021 |
| • Rick Forrester, Member at Large | 1-year term | 2020 |
| • Larry Bloomfield, Member at Large | 1-year term | 2020 |

There are 3 Board members up for reelection in 2020 and 4 in 2021.

4. Organization/Relationships.

5. Events

- Fall Fund Drive. Rick Forrester. Do we think we should order t shirts, bike shirts, etc. and have for sale down on the trail for a fall fund drive? Love to have a FLMSP ceramic mug with a tree on it that changes leaf color when you put hot coffee in it!

6. Trail Safety

- Speed Limit Sign Locations. Ron Gorley.
- Trail Etiquette Additions. Larry Bloomfield.
 1. All trail users (walkers, runners, skaters, cyclists) must use the right side of the trail. The only time a trail user should be on the left side is while passing.
 2. Groups of 4 or more cyclists (other than families with small children) should ride single file and leave a space between riders to allow faster cyclists to pass. Pacelines are discouraged.Speed limits: Recommend posting slower speed limits on crowded sections of trail.
- Intersection Model.



- Road surface: ladders
- Road surface vertical signage 100' prior to trail crossing: Diamond-shaped sign with bicycle and pedestrian.
- Road surface vertical signage 3' prior to trail crossing: Diamond-shaped sign with bicycle and pedestrian and 45 degree down arrow pointing to the trail.
- Trail: Center line
- Trail: STOP AHEAD sign or Flashing STOP sign
 - Larry asked if a "yield" could be put on the roadway signage – would be up to ODOT on state routes. Per Melissa it depends on the crossing – some municipalities do not want traffic to yield – trail users suppose to stop.
 - **Larry will check with Don Mills for contact Warren County re yield signs.**
- Intersections Safety. Don Mills.
 - Laddering: Don Mills.

There are 49 intersections in our 50 miles.
16 intersections do not warrant markings because of little traffic conflict.
33 intersections have been marked in the last year.
7 intersections will be marked as "improved" in the near future.
3 at Loveland that Dave Kennedy will do 2, 1 at Morrow that A & A will do, 1 at Terrace Park that will be done late summer, 2 at Wards Corner & Bridge that Clermont County will do.
- Intersection Safety. Don Mills
 - ODNR has committed to have their fall tree cutting crew address the sight lines at: 350 (Ft. Ancient/Morgans), Wilmington, Wards Corner, Strout and Oregonia.

- Re-Paint the “STOP” signage on Trail at intersections. Next spring/summer Bruce Cortright.
- Re-paint Mile Markers.
 - Ron Gorley. Mile Markers 29.0, 29.5, 30.0 and 28.5.
 - We have stencils and whatever paint was left.
- Re-paint Center Lines. Larry Bloomfield. Are there plans to paint/repaint dashed center lines (or at least the busier sections are there plans to paint/repaint dashed center lines (or at least the busier sections).

Don Mills. AASHTO recommends not using center lines except on sharp curves and intersections.

Don Hahn. I would add that the proper line marking for intersections are the double yellow lines at almost all trail intersections. Centerline markings between the double yellow lines would be redundant in my opinion. Since the trail is on an old rail bed there are no “sharp” curves that necessitate centerlines to my knowledge of the trail.

- Flashing STOP Signs.
 - Candidates
 - Fosters (approved)
 - Wards Corner 126 (Clermont County). Flashing Stop - Clermont County Engineers (Amanda) have plans to install some warning system at Wards Corner (the most dangerous intersection on The Trail) and at Bridge St (also known as Branch Hill New Guinea). Check with Amanda before ordering.
 - St Rt 123.
 - Branch Hill/Bridge (Clermont County)
- Timing for the above is unknown, but funding is available.

- Fences. Rich Easterly.
 - Update on Fence Team storage, i.e. consolidating Caesar Creek, Fosters, and CCC into one storage location in Morrow Advanced Self Storage.
 - Indoor location – out of the weather
 - 10x20
 - Bruce suggested we purchase a shipping container \$1300 - \$2,000 – secure but would be looking somewhere around Morrow to put it.

7. Erosion/Trail Culverts/Drainage

- Beech St
 - Ron Gorley. Beech Rd...the township has completed a drainage survey and sent to ODNR with recommendations for culvert replacement. ODNR is currently reviewing.
 - Jeff Wright. Miami Township Service Director John Musselman is going to contact ODNR to see if they have issues with us planning a project to replace the existing pipe with a larger diameter pipe and if they need to review a plan that we would

execute. So that we do not cause a new problem on a downstream property owner John is also reaching out to a local civil engineering firm to have the problem evaluated and consider if there are any unintended consequences from replacing the current pipe with a larger diameter.

- MM 44.0. Bruce Cortright. Failed culvert. ODNR is aware.
- South of I275 bridge. Culverts that need to be dug out have been marked.
- Paving. Ron Gorley
- MM 3.3 to MM 6.1. Don Mills. This area should be a candidate for the next re-pave after Morrow. I want to recommend that we determine what needs to be done to the 1 1/2 miles of Trail and the stream bank at MM 4.3.

For the past 10 years there has existed systemic problems in this section that have never had a resolution recommendation

- Bridges.
 - Melissa Clark. ODNR is fast-tracking the following bridges, i.e. Corwin Rd 18.3, O'Bannon Creek 41.5, and Beech St 45.9.
 - Beech St 45.9. There is still a process, **but not the lengthy capital process.** We will keep you updated.
 - Farm culvert bridge at MM18.3
 - 1 support board completely rotted away and blacktop is sagging, going to give way soon. Other boards showing signs of rot.



- Bear Run along Old 3C at Fosters
 - Rot. Support system for the railings have extensively failed.
- King Avenue Bridge. Anthony Cook.
 PROJECT SCOPE: The King Ave. Bridge carries two lanes of traffic across the Little Miami River in Warren County. The bridge will remain in its current two-lane configuration, but the lanes will be widened, and safety shoulders will be added in both directions. The new structure will be built upstream of the existing bridge crossing. In addition, a new 10-foot multi-use path will be built on the new bridge that will separate pedestrians from traffic, and a tunnel will be built for a portion of the Little Miami Scenic Bike Trail, which will separate the trail from Grandin Rd. A new parking lot for Little Miami Scenic Bike Trail users will be built and the project also will include a new roundabout at the intersection of the Peters Cartridge Factory development and parking lot access for the trail.

8. Trail Condition

- **Stabilizations.** ODNR.
 - Trail Erosion at I71.
- **Bumps.** Don Hahn. Don will be leading a team doing scarifying Oct 12 thru Oct 19.
 - a. Bruce did from Fosters South for 2 days – 29 bumps 1st day, 19 2nd day
 - b. Need a plan on how to seal cracks where sealant that won't get tracked on the trail.
- **Crack-filling.**
 - The last time we did crack-filling was some number of years ago. This is something that should be on our radar.

9. Amenities

- Web Site.
 - Rod Martin has begun work on updating the “core” of FLMSP’s web site.
- Spring Valley Kiosk. Dick Feldmann.
 Now that the port-o-let is complete, we can turn our attention to the kiosk.

For several years, The Friends of the Little Miami State Park and Spring Valley Association of Community and Township Services (Spring Valley ACTS) have teamed up to provide trail users at the northern end of the park a portable restroom facility at Founders Park in the middle of the Village of Spring Valley. This year we moved the restroom from its original location next to a memorial tree in the park to more level ground on the old basketball court slab and built a three-sided enclosure to contain the unit. This project has made the restroom more easily accessible and improved the ambiance of the park.

Founder’s Park, on the southwest corner of Main Street and the Little Miami Scenic Trail, is operated by Spring Valley ACTS for the community to honor Spring Valley

community leaders and boosters. The park provides gardens, benches, and a comfortable stop for users of the trail.

Dick Feldman will do this kiosk at cost, e.g. \$2,500 for materials or so depending on CVD pricing. Add to this a \$1,000 donation to ACTS and we can get a kiosk for \$3,500 or so versus \$5,000-5,500 for our previous contractor. Dick will do this kiosk at cost, e.g. \$2,500 or so depending on CVD pricing. Add to this a \$1,000 donation to ACTS and we can get a kiosk for \$3,500 or so versus \$5,000-5,500 for our previous contractor

Dick has the zoning permit without having to go to the zone board. We are allowed to go ahead with this. 6 display cases – 3 will be for FLMSP. Going to hold off until the Corwin Shelter is up.

- Benches. Ron Gorley.

We are down to just a couple of available sites, once Folger decides which location she wants.

We have 3 locations Ron and I had slated for possible rehab:

- MM47.7/Rte 126 second tiered wood bench
- MM44.4/Bridge Street: new wood slats needed on existing concrete base bench
- MM37.7/2 REI wood benches

- ArcGIS. Dick Feldmann.

11. Beauty

- Invasive Control. Jim Mason.

Alanthus:

- ½ mile south Roxanne New Burlington (Spray 3-5 plants but couldn't locate any large trees (mother plants)
- ¼ mile south of Corwin I sprayed 125ft of small plants and flagged 15; 6-18" (DBH – Diameter Breast Height) mother plants for basal bark application
- I sprayed small plants at the water treatment plant at Rt. 123
- ¾ mile north of Foster I flagged 1: 12" mother plant and treated all the small ones.
- 1 mile south of Foster – I flagged 25 mother plants – 4-18" DBH and treated the small ones.
- I sprayed 3 additional areas north of Loveland and found no mother plants but multiple walnut trees
- 3/10 mile past Isaac Walter League – I sprayed 3 areas over 300' and found no mother plants
- 2/10 mile north of Bridge Street I flagged 1: 12" mother plant and treated the small one around the base of the mother
- Just south of Bridge Street I flagged 23 mother plants 6-18" trees and sprayed all the small trees and root spouts.
- 3/10 Mile south of Beech Street I flagged 2 mother plants
- South of Center Street there are a lot of 3' to 8' tallwhips, ½ to 1" diameter in the drain way previously mowed

Honeysuckle Proposal 2020: 17.6 miles Morrow to Branch Hill

- Morrow to South Lebanon: 4.5 miles apply heavily both directions 1st mile, apply to large HS 20" of center line to Riverside and push back large HS on south side of trail.
- Gravel Pit to Stubb Mills spray to top of Levy both sides
- Stubb Mill to South Lebanon – 2.5 miles apply heavily both directions – large HS on both sides for 2 miles. Spray uphill side and levy on the riverside, push back in all drain ways.
- Foster to Loveland 4 miles apply both directions – concentrate on River views going south 1.5 miles from Foster to .5 miles north of Loveland. Large HS is present on both sides.
- Loveland to Bridge Street – 2 miles apply both directions. Spot spray both directions. Spray 4" HS previously cut from the park to Isaac Walton.
- Bridge Street to Branch Hill – 3 miles apply both directions.
- Push back and spot spray all areas and guard rails.

Total Amount Proposed \$2,800.00. Steve motioned to approve 2,800 for the treatment of the honeysuckle along the trail as proposed by Jim. Bruce seconded. All approved

Jim will send to Rick areas that would benefit from the chainsaw gang cutting the honeysuckle and treating the trunks.

Jim will follow up with Becky regarding the pollinator prairie.

12. Volunteer Recruitment, Onboarding, Recognition

Becky stated that there are no current updates but plans on getting back on track with the committee during the winter. It is still a priority.

13. Calendar.

- Spring 2020-Fall 2021 SR 48 and US 22: This project is currently in progress.
Trail will remain open during construction. However, occasional flagging operations may be necessary.
Temporary construction fence will be installed along construction boundaries to protect the park and users.
Signage will be installed to alert trail users of the construction activity.
- August 2021 thru December 31, 2022 King Avenue Bridge.
- Spring 2023 for approximately 5 months US 42
The proposed project will require the construction of a protective shed with lighting over the Little Miami Scenic Trail to protect Trail users. The project will also require six short term closures for access to the bridge for demolition, erection of new beams, and protection during deck pouring to protect the Trail users.

Daytime closures during weekdays for demolition. Two closures lasting approximately 1 week each (5 days) and for maybe as long as 3 months apart.

Daytime closures during weekdays for erection of bridge beams. Two closures lasting 2 days each and maybe as long as 3 months apart. It may be possible to complete this work at night.

Daytime closures during weekdays for pouring on the concrete bridge deck. Two closures lasting approximately 1 week each (5 days) at separate times

15. Miscellaneous Projects Needing Capital and/or Labor

- **Port-o-let**
 - Our current specifications: concrete pad, 3-sided, no roof, no door, 6' tall, 6" clearance under walls.
 - Potential Locations: Miamiville, Oregonia, Spring Valley.

16. Administration.

- Memberships
 - Constant Contact last Membership appeal for 2020 --- October.
 - Constant Contact first Membership appeal for 2021, 2020 tax deduction --- December.
- Ownerships
 - Don Mills legacy. –
Larry will talk more with Don on where he thinks we need to go from here
 - Tom McCray legacy.

17. Meeting Schedule.

Future General Board Meetings will be online using ZOOM until the current COVID-19 restrictions are relaxed.

Any other items needing discussion by the Board will be done via email

Bruce motioned up to \$400 for tractor repair/maintenance. Rick seconded. Approved.

Steve motioned to end the 10-13-20 meeting. Dick seconded. Approved