

**Friends of the Little Miami State Park
Board of Directors' Meeting 1/11/2017
Hamilton Township, OH**

Call to Order – Ron Gorley, Don Hahn, George Stockham, Mike Dresch, Aaron Rourke; Paul and Janet remotely (by phone)

Guest: Kathy Vietor, trail user.

Introduction of Members and Guests - Ron (5 min)

Kathy Vietor is her because she and her boyfriend ride the trail.

Approval of Minutes from November 9 - Aaron (5 min)

Approved after changing a few of the motioning and seconding names.

Treasurer's Report - Mike (5 min) (19:10-19:15)

As of 12/31/16

Cash On Hand:

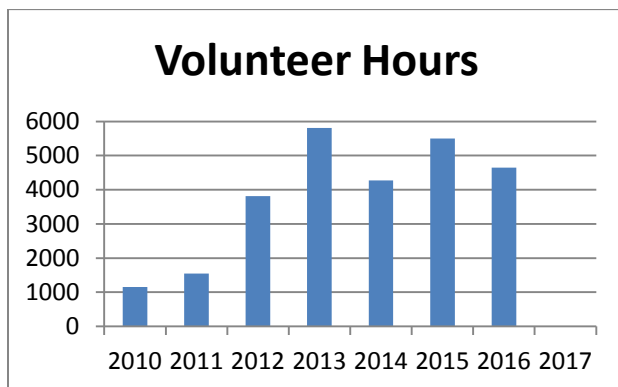
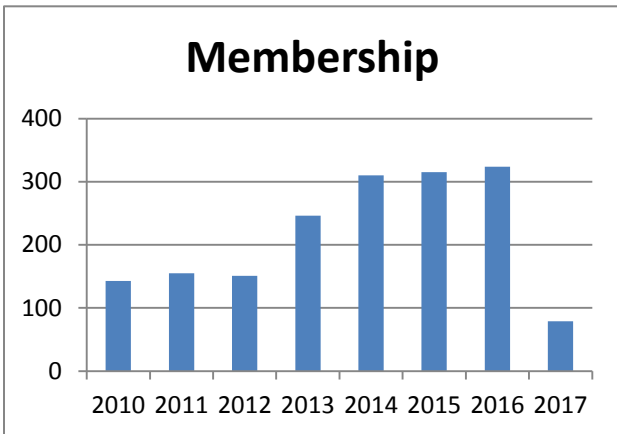
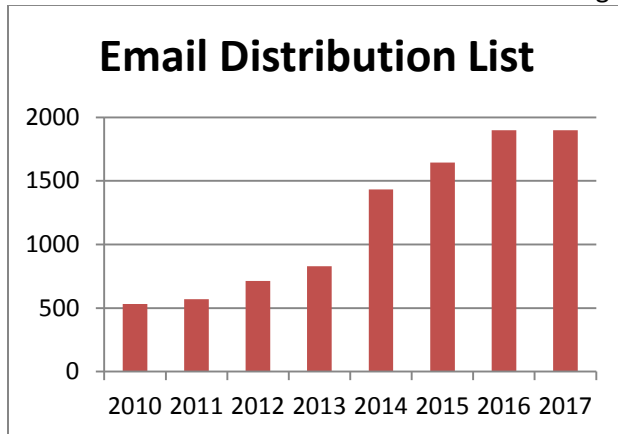
Savings Account \$37,122.52

Checking Account 16,631.85

Total \$53,754.37

All funds are unrestricted

FLMSP Metrics - Ron (0 min) Reminder letter to 2016 members who have not re-upped will go out later this month. Aaron brought up using a more liberal mileage reimbursement policy as a 'sweetener' strategy for recruiting volunteers and bumping up the volunteer hours; after some discussion, this issue was deferred for consideration at a future meeting.



ODNR - Ron for Ken (15 min) (19:15-19:30)

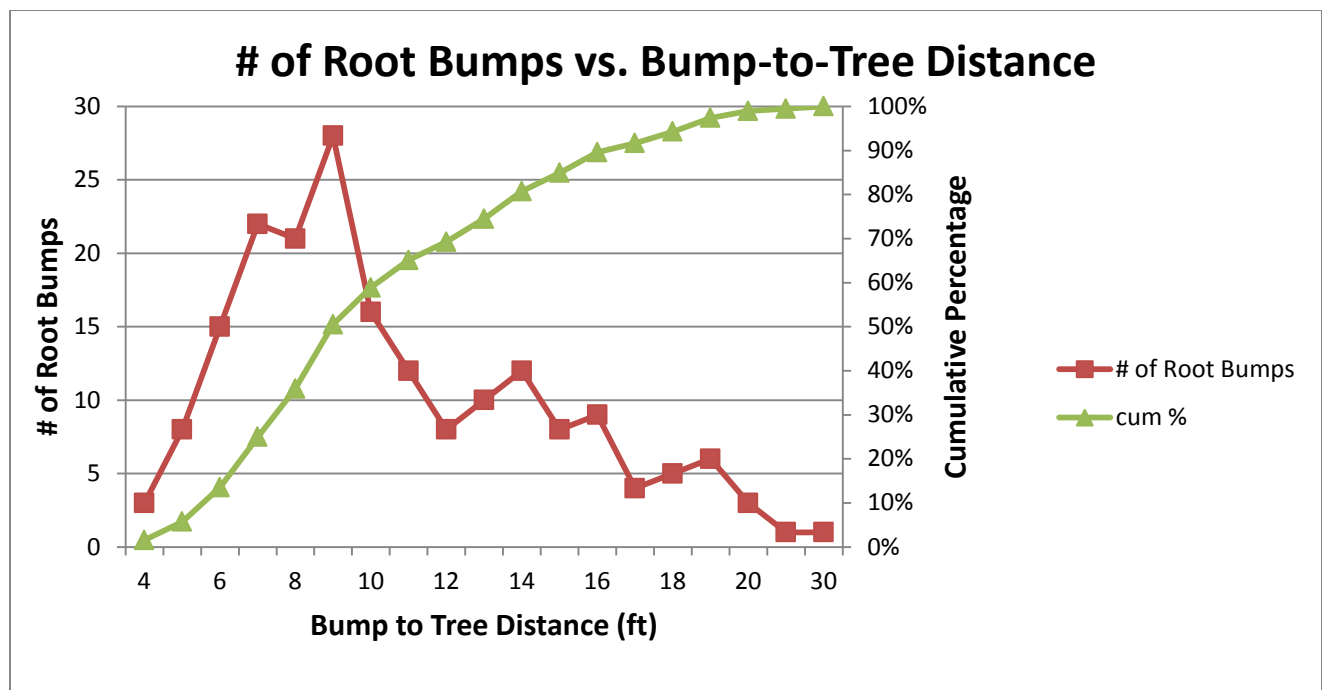
- New Info signs have been replaced in Corwin. Continue replacement as time allows. **Question: why has this been delayed so far, and should we help with the 100 signs that have arrived? Ron committed to organizing a matching volunteer effort – if ODNR fields 3 people, so will we.**
- South Construction will be ditch clearing over the next several weeks. **Paul has submitted a list of sites in priority order, starting with Wilmington Road crossing.**
- South Construction will start boom mowing soon. **Members should forward areas of concern to Ron, who will forward them to Ken.**
- Loveland south paving will be complete this spring (grant extension approved)
- Phase 1 Ft. Ancient bridge complete. **Ron's question: has anybody seen the pavement? Nobody present has had this experience.**
- Call to ODNR regarding trail blowing – **complaint from trail user who was wearing earbuds and didn't hear blower approaching from behind. Conclusion: our volunteer was blameless, and we will continue business as usual.**

Benches - Ron (25 min) (19:30-19:55)

- Ask for public comment from attendees: **neither guest expected to attend came to the meeting.**
- Requests from people willing to pay for memorial benches and people who would like to have more access to benches along the trail
- Benches at kiosks have already been approved. Maintenance concern when "stand alone."
- ODNR concern regarding over-memorializing. Across all State Parks, not just LMSP.
- Need for policy regarding benches. Agreement between FLMSF and ODNR. Volunteers? **Kathy – the guest – will gather the ideas that have been circulating, with Paul's assistance, and create a policy proposal. Kathy will update us next month on her policy evolution.**
- Motion from Paul: I DO PROPOSE that the board approve bench requests on a case-by-case basis until we have such a policy. (why not wait for the policy? Paul doubts the board can agree on one within 3 months and - in the meantime - we look "bad" to the trail users (those who request benches) we say we're here to serve. **Aaron seconded. Unanimously approved.**

Tree Proximity to Trail - Paul (15 min) (19:55-20:10)

- Survey of 192 root bumps
- 70% of root bumps are caused by trees <12' from trail
- 85% of root bumps are caused by trees <15' from trail
- Other discussion: What about existing trees within 12'? How close is too close from a safety standpoint, 1', 2', 3'? Should ash tree removal prioritize trees within 12'? Etc.
- Motion from Paul: I do propose the FLMSF adopt a policy that we don't want trees within 15 feet of the trail. Such trees account for 90% of our root bump problems. If approved, this means no new trees planted within 15 feet. As time and resources allow, trees with that distance will gradually (no timeline) be removed. This has zero effect on the problem of dead tree removals with deals with safety hazards. **Aaron seconded; after much discussion, Paul agreed to limit his current motion to 'no new trees within 15 feet'. George seconded; passed unanimously. Original motion: Aaron seconded; in favor – Paul, John, George, Mike and Don; opposed Ron, Aaron and Janet.. Motion passed.**



Counting Program (15 min) (20:10-20:25)

- 1.27 million visits to LMSP in 2016. Compared to 0.9 million visits in 2015.
- Most frequent visits are at Loveland, Milford and Fosters.
- Budget for 2017 to continue-as-is will be \$1500. Discussion on whether to continue or reduce frequency. Need motion to approve 2017 budge. **Aaron moved \$1500; Ron seconded; motion passed unanimously.**



2016 LMSP Counting
Results.pdf

Board Alignment with Strategy (20 min) (20:25-20:45)

- Recall that at our November board meeting, we each agreed to look at the proposed strategic areas. Comments were welcome for any changes. No changes were suggested. We each all agreed to volunteer for a strategic area and to draft appropriate strategies, action plans, resources, constraints and outcomes and to have this first draft available for review by our January board meeting. Below is the chart showing who volunteered for each of the strategies.



Board Roles.docx

- Attached are the six strategies I have seen so far, one from me and one from Paul. Many are not in final form, but you can see the thought process on how the strategy will be executed.
- Discussion: Remaining two strategies?, any issues so far? Recruiting for secondaries? **Action item: all board members should read the other available submissions and comment by 1/25 - Steve's email constitutes his 'strategy' draft; all board members finish and submit by 1/30 (ten days in advance of next**



Strategy -
Safety.docx



Strategy - Asphalt
and Repaving Grants.



Strategy -
Funding.docx



Strategy - Recruiting
& Placement.docx



Strategy -
Communications.docx

meeting);



Strategy - ODNR
Relationship.docx

Next Meeting – No meeting in February; next meeting March 8th at Hamilton Township Hall in Maineville (same place as tonight).

George moved to adjourn; Aaron seconded; unanimously passed.