

**Friends of the Little Miami State Park
Board of Directors
11/08/2017 Meeting Minutes
Hamilton Township OH**

Board Present: Mike Dresch, Ron Gorley, Don Hahn, Paul Morgan, Steve Murphy, Janet Slater, George Stockham

Board Absent: Bruce Cortright

ODNR Present: Melissa Clark, Phil Miller (and spouse Melissa Miller),

Members and Guests Present: Tom Brinkman, Dick Feldmann, Bob Gossett, Tom McCray, Bill Taphorn

Call to Order: - Ron

Introduction of Members and Guests: - Ron (5 min)

Approval of Minutes from October 11: Ron (5 min). George Stockham moved to approve; Ron Gorley made the second. The vote was unanimous.



Minutes
2017-10-11.docx

Treasurer's Report - Mike (5 min)

As of 10/31/2017

Cash On Hand:

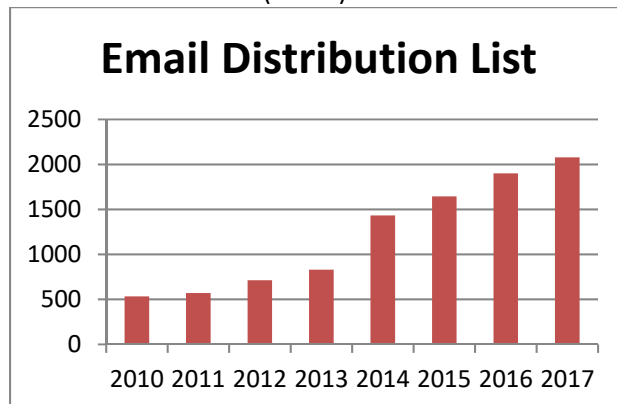
Savings Account \$24,153.24

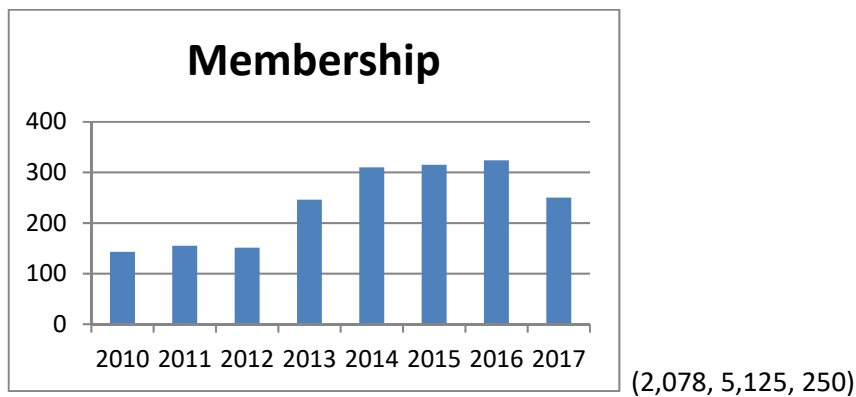
Checking Account 4,644.56

Total \$28,797.80 All funds are unrestricted

- Mike Dresch presented the Treasurer's Report.
- Mike Dresch updated the Board that FLMSP needs to change insurance from Auto-Owners at Tinnerman Insurance Agency to a policy at Francis and Mannerino Insurance Agency by January 18, 2018.

FLMSP Metrics - Ron (0 min)





1,028 Facebook "Likes" and 34 Twitter followers.

ODNR Update: Melissa Clark (30 min)

- George Stockham gave plaudits to ODNR's effort on the Tree Blitz, i.e. labor, equipment, and overall organization. "Promises not kept" were a big problem with previous ODNR initiatives. This was not the case here. It was suggested that going forward, ODNR should take the position of "under promising and ever delivering".
- Melissa said that the Tree Blitz would cause trail closures from S Lebanon to Fosters from 11/9-11/12.
- Melissa has been in touch with ODOT:
 - I71. ODOT will be grading and planting --- no dates.
 - I275. ODOT is "engaged", but no specific plans or dates.
 - Rt48. ODOT will address this issue this winter --- no dates.
- When the current Tree Blitz is complete, we can then turn our attention to the 20 trees close to the trail that threaten the 1.6 miles repaved in 2016, the 8 miles repaved in 2017, and the yet-to-be-paved 13.3 miles from Loveland to Morrow.
- The ODNR policy is now that FLMSF is no longer permitted to fell any standing trees --- period. Going forward, ODNR will fell any standing trees and FLMSF will follow ODNR clearing the cut material.

ODNR Update: Phil Miller

- In competing for capital dollars, the fact that FLMSF has the KZF Master Plan is to our advantage.
- The very lengthy permitting process is because the Little Miami River is both a State and National Scenic River.
- FLMSF may be called upon to apply for one or more grants that can be leveraged by State capital dollars. The Board asked if our volunteer hours (5,000+ per year) could be used as an "in-kind" substitute for grant dollars. The specific question had to do with "ditching".
 - In preparing the Loveland to Morrow section for paving, there will be 13.3 miles of ditch recovery --- a task that is within the proven ability of FLMSF volunteers. To the extent FLMSF takes on the responsibility of clearing these 13.3 miles of ditches, that should remove the need to pay for this ditch clearing from capital dollars.
 - Phil Miller did not have a ready answer as to whether FLMSF volunteer hours could satisfy all or part of any ODNR grant requirement.
- FLMSF should focus on the fact that this is a "regional Ask". Towards that end, FLMSF should secure the support of the various jurisdictions (i.e. villages, cities, townships, counties) and businesses along the trail.

Ohio Capital Budget Process: Rep. Tom Brinkman, Ron Gorley, Steve Murphy (30 min)

- Rep Brinkman talked about the “give and take” of the State’s budgeting process and that Politics is the “art of the possible”.
- Rep Brinkman talked about the amount of State capital available for “Cincinnati”, while unknown at this time, might be in the \$17-20 million range.
- Rep Brinkman informed us that, at this point, he’s not aware of any “major asks” competing for this \$17-20 million --- this might be a good year for FLMSP.
- Rep Brinkman echoed the sentiments of Phil Miller that this is a “regional Ask”. Towards that end, FLMSP should secure the support of the various jurisdictions (i.e. villages, cities, townships, counties) and businesses along the trail.
- Rep Brinkman said that because first-term Sen Steve Wilson represents Warren County and because Warren County represents 32 miles of the 50-mile trail, we should cultivate our relationship with Sen Steve Wilson. In addition, the State Republican Party is looking to feature Sen Steve Wilson in legislative initiatives since the Senator will be seriously challenged in the 2018 elections.
- Rep Brinkman recommended in the strongest term that FLMSP cultivate a relationship with Christopher S Habel, Member-in-Charge of the Cincinnati office of the law firm of Frost Brown Todd.
- Commitment from ODNR Chief Michael Bailey to coordinate with FLMSP, regarding priorities and how and when to support the request for capital within the Executive Branch. A conference call was scheduled with Michael Bailey, Ron Gorley, and Steve Murphy for Friday 11/10/2017.

Pollinator Meadow: Becky Retzer (20 min)

- Becky was not in attendance.

Root-Cutting and Bump Grinding Report: Don Hahn (10 min)

- The basic question is “How often?”.
- The Prairie Trail Group is one year ahead of FLMSP and therefore FLMSP can leverage their experience.
- Root-cutting allows us to protect our investment a) in trails already paved (i.e. Milford-Camp Dennison and Loveland-Camp Dennison) and b) future repaved trails (e.g. Loveland-Morrow).

Need for a Backhoe: George Stockham (20 min)

- The Board considered renting versus buying.
- With a backhoe, FLMSP volunteers could reestablish ditches and inlets.
- The idea was put on the table vis-à-vis the Loveland to Morrow section, i.e. “If FLMSP were to take on the reditching work for these 13.3 miles of the trail and thereby relieve the Capital Budget of that burden, could that “in-kind” work satisfy part or all of FLMSP’s need to generate grant funding, i.e. grant equivalent dollars?”
- Mike made the motion for up to \$1,500 to lease a backhoe. George made the second. The vote was unanimous.

Board Succession / Recruitment: Ron (15 min)

- The current FLMSP By-laws call for 7 Directors.
- FLMSP is currently at 8 Directors with a turnover of 3 Directors at the next Annual Meeting.

- FLMSP has the option of changing the By-laws to 8 Directors or reducing Board membership to By-laws level of 7 through attrition.
- The Board decided to use attrition to reduce Board membership to 7.
- Don Hahn's, Janet Slater's, and Steve Murphy's terms expire in 2019. Bruce and Ron will serve an additional term. A Treasurer needs to be recruited. At least one additional Director needs to be recruited.

Adjourn: George Stockham made the motion; Don Hahn made the second. The vote was unanimous.

Next Board Meeting:

January 10, 2018, 7:00 pm, Hamilton Township