

**Friends of the Little Miami State Park
Board of Directors' Meeting 4/11/2018
Wayne Township, OH**

Call to Order - Paul

Introduction of Members and Guests - Paul

Board present: Paul Morgan, George Stockham, Bruce Cortright, Don Hahn, Mike Dresch, Janet Slater

Guests: Jim Mason, Dennis Lewis, Kathy Lewis, Tom McCray, Dick Feldmann, Rick Forrester, Tom Fromholt

ODNR: Melissa Clark

Approval of Minutes from February 14

George moved to approve the minutes from the Board meeting of Feb. 14, 2018; Don seconded and the motion unanimously passed.



Minutes
2018-02-14.docx

Treasurer's Report - Mike (10 min)

As of 3/31/2018

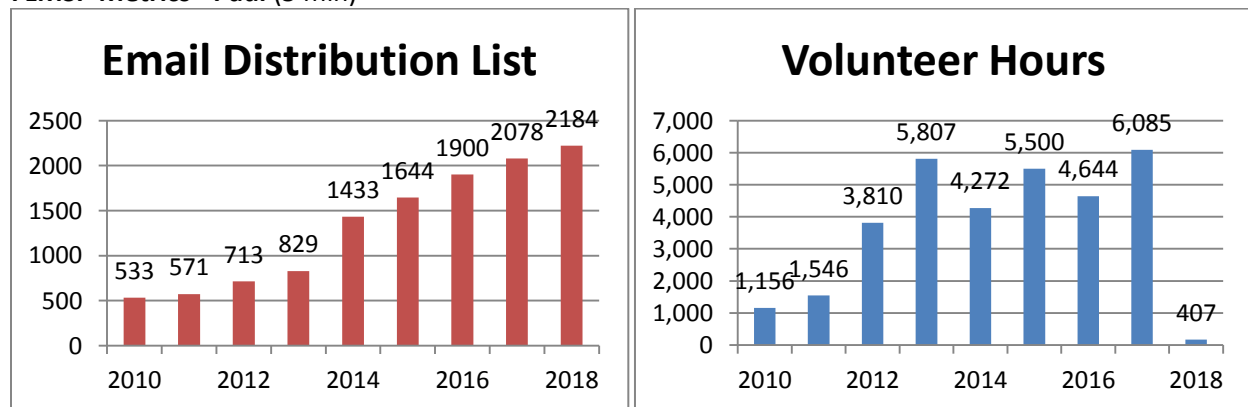
Cash On Hand:

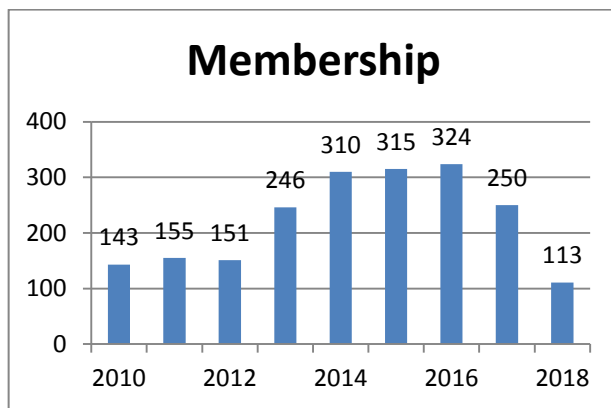
Savings Account \$22,161.75

Checking Account 11,312.46

Total \$33,474.21 All funds are unrestricted

FLMSP Metrics - Paul (5 min)





Twitter followers: 47
Facebook Likes: 1,086

ODNR Update - Melissa Clark (30 min)

- Kyle is now back to work; Randy is expected to start next week.
- The tree blitz berm cleanup:
 - A Log removals & FLMSPP support
 - B Brush chipping & FLMSPP support

Good progress was made during the first two days of work. The joint effort will continue through April with the goal of clearing the berms for mowing.
- ODNR's Southern Construction Crew operated the articulated mower in the southern section over a period of 3 weeks and reached as far south as Loveland. They plan to mow Loveland to Terrace Park in the fall of 2018.
- Phase II Capital has been approved by the State Assembly. These projects are scheduled for the Spring and will begin in May:
 1. Spring Valley permanent reroute (start expected prior to Memorial Day)
 2. Ft Ancient tension cracks repair and reroute (start expected prior to Memorial Day)
 3. Contractor is allowed to close the trail for up to two weeks for each of these projects. Melissa will notify Janet when closures are known.
- ODOT work on Rte 48 was completed the end of March. The fix looks good and is working well.
- ODOT cut a ditch high on the hill around I-71. It is holding well and there have been no signs of mud on the trail pavement.
- ODOT work at the I-275 overpass: Bruce and Mike cleared the culvert following the last big rain; ODOT has not yet started on a more permanent solution
- The Strout Rd bridge repair work continues; paving is planned for June.
- Tree roots – Discussion including Jim Mason about applying chemicals to tree roots under the trail as an alternative to root cutting. Jim indicated it would be difficult to apply enough chemical to kill a large root without also killing the tree. He suggested handling tree roots on a case-by-case basis, and it might be best to “deadend” (apply a killing dose of chemical to) certain offending trees. Melissa was concerned that trees weakened and dying from chemicals might pose a danger to trail users; Jim Mason did not believe this to be a problem. Melissa proposes identifying the worst offending trees in the new pavement areas and cutting them in the fall as staff is available.
- Three major slumps and 2 failing bridges are future projects. Melissa hopes there will be funds left over from present projects that can be applied to the worst of these problem areas.
- Melissa recognizes there are culverts that need work. Her priorities this spring:
 1. Clear berms
 2. First mowing

3. Culvert work

- Trail signs: Reminder from an earlier board meeting. Many older trail signs need to either be cleaned or removed. Melissa suggested section leaders report signs that need to be replaced; FLMSP volunteers could clean those that can still be used.

Repaving Funds from State Budget - Don

- \$200,000 for repaving has been approved, to be administered by ODNR during the new fiscal year beginning in July. Areas for repaving need to be prioritized, identifying areas of trail that do not require preliminary infrastructure work.
- Will ODNR agree to include in the scope of the repaving that they remove any trees within 5 feet of the trail or within 10 feet of the trail if it is causing pavement bumping/cracking? Melissa says tree removal is generally included in the “clearing and grubbing” preparation by the contractor and will be considered if there is not additional cost.

FLMSP - Desk top license of Quick Books - Dick F, Mike

<https://quickbooks.intuit.com/pricing/>

As the prospective new treasurer, Dick Feldmann proposed moving to a cloud-based Quick Books license rather than the individual license that the FLMSP treasurer has been using to date. Advantages to the cloud-based license are allowing several different users, automatic updates, and storage of records in a secure cloud environment. Present treasurer Mike Dresch also supports this type of license. A disadvantage is the annual fee of \$100 to \$200, but the board felt this was negligible considering the greater flexibility and security of the cloud license. Bruce moved that the new treasurer choose an appropriate level of license up to \$200; Janet seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

April 22 ODNR-sponsored Event on trail:

- 9 a.m. to 12 noon: Meet at the south end of the Loveland trailside parking lot (new lot) for a volunteer work session. Work includes cutting honeysuckle, pulling garlic mustard, and planting trees.
- 1:00 – 4:00: Activities at the Little Miami Conservancy Trail Center along the trail in Loveland provided by Scenic Rivers and the park naturalist, including a raptor show and wildflower walk. Jim Mason will demonstrate herbicide application.
- FLMSP is listed as a sponsoring partner and is welcome to have a table and solicit memberships. No one at the board meeting was available to man this table; Janet will check with a couple of volunteers.

Annual Herbicide Results & Training - Don

- Jim Mason reported great results from herbicide spraying from Stubbs Mill to below Loveland on the river side of the trail. In some places 100% of honeysuckle was killed to the river's edge, opening river views. He and Melissa have identified several large areas to spray next.
- Herbicide training should be done 2 to 3 times a year. The first session this year is Basic Training to be held April 25 at 6:00 - 8:30 p.m. at the Hamilton Twp. Community Center, run by Jim Mason.

Annual Membership Meeting - Paul (10 min)

- May 6 at Foster's Point clubhouse at 5 pm.
- The following people have volunteered to run for officer positions: Steve Murphy - President; Ron Gorley - Vice President; Janet Slater - Secretary; Dick Feldmann - Treasurer. The following people have volunteered to run for at-large positions: Bruce Cortright and Rick Forester. Don Hahn has one year remaining in his at-large position. Tom Fromholt stated he is interested in an at-large board position. Other members may choose to add their names to the candidates list.

- Food arrangements: Janet will contact Maxine Fischer to see if she would like to serve again; if necessary Janet will contact John Biederman for new volunteers interested in events.
- Highlights from previous year and expectations for upcoming year: board members prepared an informal list for Ron to use at the Annual Meeting.

Adjournment: George moved for adjournment; Mike seconded; motion approved.

Next Board Meeting -

The Annual Membership Mtg at Foster's Pointe clubhouse at 5 pm, May 6.