

**Friends of the Little Miami State Park
ZOOM Online General Board Meeting 09-09-2020
Meeting Minutes**

Call to Order: Steve Murphy

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

Board Members Present: Steve Murphy, Ron Gorley, Dick Feldmann, Larry Bloomfield, Becky Retzer

Board Member Absent: Rick Forrester, Bruce Cortright

Guests: Anthony Cook (Cartridge Brewing), Kyle (ODNR), Don Hahn

Approval of Minutes from 08-12-2020: Becky Retzer motioned to approve the August minutes, Dick seconded. Approved

Treasurer's Report - Dick Feldmann (5 min)

Cash on Hand:	07-31-2020	08-31-2020	Change +/-
Unrestricted	\$36,862	\$40,905	+4043
Restricted	8,954	18,311	+9357
Safety	6,448	5,695	
Memorial bench & Kiosk	2,506	12,616	
Reserved	6,302	4,552	(1,750)
Pollinator garden program	1,350	1,350	
Corwin Shelter	2,202	2,202	
Spring Valley crosswalks & signs	1,000	1,000	
Morrow Rt. 123 crosswalk	1,750	0	
Operating Account	9,775	21,418	+11,643
Savings Account	42,344	42,350	+6
Receivables	0	0	0
Total	\$52,119	\$63,768	+11,649

Treasurer Narrative: Dick Feldmann

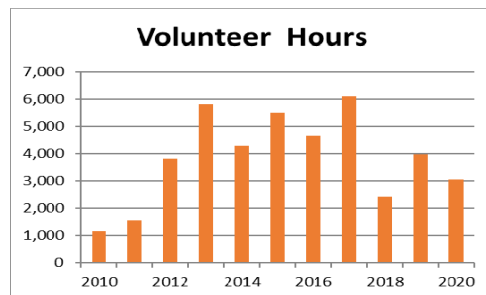
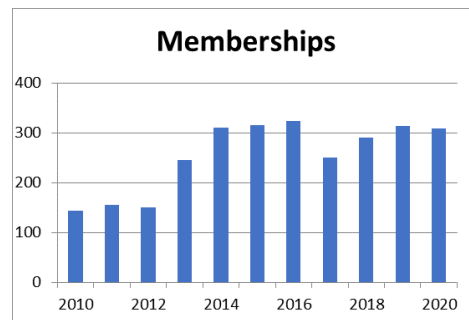
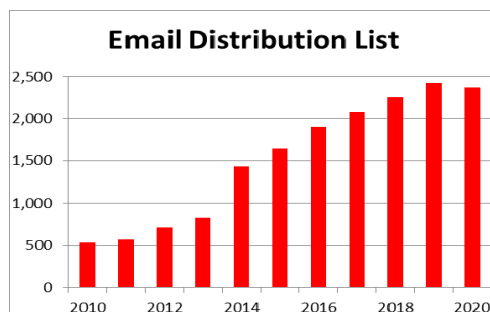
- Financial Statement for August sent to board on September 5th.
- Major Income items:
 - Donation of \$10,000 from Mark and Suellen Applebaum of Appletree Pet Clinic for Memorial Bench and Spring Valley Kiosk
 - Donation of \$1,000 from Leon & Joy Lowenstein to general fund
 - Donation of \$1,500 from Kathy Lewis and friends for Memorial Bench
 - Donation of \$1,500 from Maria Blake for Memorial Bench
- Major Expense items approved and paid:

- RJ Thomas for 2 Memorial benches: \$2,132
 - Major Expense items requiring approval:
 - 20 MPH Speed Limit signs. Don Hahn.
- Therefore, by copy to Rick and Steve I am asking the FLMSB board to make a request of ODNR for more 20 mph speed limit signs, especially for the congested areas south of Morrow.

Ron will inventory what FLMSB has available. We have a dozen communities with parking - one sign per direction

Metrics: Steve Murphy (5 min)

	<u>08-12-2020</u>	<u>09-09-2020</u>	<u>+/-</u>
Email Distribution List:	2,365	2,369	+4
Memberships:	303	309	+6
Same time last year:	210	210	+0
End of year 2019:	321	321	+0
Volunteer Hours:	2,716		-+0
Facebook "Followers":	1,608		+0
Facebook "Likes":	1,606		+0
Twitter "Followers":	57	57	+0
Twitter "Likes":	57	57	+0



Strategic Plan.

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

1. ODNR.

- From the desk of Melissa Clark.
- August 18. Ron Gorley and Dick Feldmann
This past Tuesday, Dick and I had a phone conversation with Melissa. See below for a summary of that meeting.
- Any word on budget for LMSP and the impact on projects like Mathers slip, etc.?
 - Melissa has not been informed of any budget information down to the park level.
 - Ron heard from Sen. Wilson's office that our community capital is still unresolved. New House leadership has meant focusing only on essential budget items. Resolution on our request is delayed. We have not heard from Senator Wilson's office – the essential capital has been divvied up – ours is non-essential. This is not unusual.
- Timing for Southern Construction crew to lay down gravel south of Morrow.
 - Not possible to line up timing until after the budget at the park level is set. This, since the gravel will have to be bid out. Cost of gravel is between 15-20k. This will be a separate request per Kyle. Kyle is getting quotes some estimates for the 1.6 miles of trail – both sides. ODOT may be able to help once estimates come in.
 - The South Lebanon material donation approach may not work. SL gets material and wants to dispose immediately. ODNR needs time to schedule.
- Any other work for crew while they're on the trail?
 - No other work planned for the Southern Construction crew.
- Do you foresee a tree blitz this fall?
 - No.
- Response to Bruce's suggestion that FLMSF pay for Beech Rd repair?
 - First preference would be to have enough budget to replace all the timber bridges. But if FLMSF wants to pursue Beech Rd, that's okay. Need to have a scope of work with enough detail in it to present to ODNR Engineering and get them to approve. Make sure a moisture barrier is part of the scope.
 - Just beginning stages on 3 bridges – although depends on budget – whether all three, one.
- Likelihood of erecting the Corwin shelter this year?
 - Looking good – great coordination – should happen within next two weeks.
- Corwin request - can you provide a trash can?
 - No. Can't guarantee stopping by frequently enough to keep it from overflowing. Melissa asked us to ask the village if they could provide.
- Response to encroachment with the tent in Loveland.
 - Melissa wasn't aware of the problem prior to the meeting. Dick forwarded the Rick Forrester email to her and he has subsequently researched ownership of the property.
- Once we finish with benches, thoughts about bike racks at the major parking lots.
 - Sounds like a good idea, but not sure where we're lacking them. FLMSF will survey the major parking lots and get back to Melissa.

- Casey has been interviewing for a permanent job elsewhere and is likely to be leaving ODNR. He has been the major help on the trail this year and has done a great job. We asked Melissa to let him know that we've noticed his work and are appreciative of his contributions to the trail this year.
- Fosters Intersection Rework. Hamilton Township is recommending shifting the trail toward Maineville-Foster Rd, so vehicular and trail traffic can be regulated together. Maineville-Foster Rd will continue through the intersection behind the existing rest rooms. The trail will follow the road in this area. More to come and not finalized yet.

June 2021 – fixed date for bridge shutdown – on ODOT end.

- August 12. Ron Gorley.
 - The road closure is the 22/3 bridge, but traffic will be routed to Old 3C increasing traffic in an already busy area. Up in the air, but one proposal is to reroute the trail closer to the intersection with Foster-Maineville Rd, so traffic signals can control both cars and trail traffic. Would mean rerouting the trail through the existing parking lot and along the backside of the restrooms. FLMSF has approved installing the flashing stop signs at Fosters in the near term. If this becomes obsolete, we can move the stop signs to Miamiville or wherever our next priority is.
 - O'Bannon Creek bridge will be closed starting next Monday around 6 pm until approximately 6 pm on the Thursday of that same week. This is to address structural issues with the bridge that threaten to close it permanently. ODNR has placed signs at Fosters and Lyons Rd. This is already posted on our Facebook page. Kyle does not know any updates on status.
- I71 Erosion. The last major project that could shut down the trail. Timing? Cost?
- Morrow. Ron Gorley
 - Paving completed. Some berm work is needed because in some cases the trail surface is 5-6" above the berm. Intent is to fund the work to smooth the berm along the recent repaving section in the next budget so hopefully around August. I have had conversations and emails with her and Kyle about taking care of the high berm associated with the new paving south of Morrow. \$31K for the paving contractor was too expensive, so ODNR is waiting for Southern Construction Crew to do the work in the fall. I found South Lebanon was willing to provide material and labor for part of the work. Melissa has gotten approval from within ODNR okaying this approach, but neither she nor Kyle followed up with South Lebanon.

- ODNR Phone Call Notes. Ron Gorley.
- Stop sign at Corwin has been stolen. No replacement sign readily available for Corwin.
- Corwin shelter installation. Dick Feldman.
 - FLMSSP agreed to pay for the concrete, rebar, and the boring bit extension rental. It's all in the budget the board approved back in the spring.
 - Rebar has been purchased
 - I believe I've got all the plans and necessary information.
 - Kyle, if you concur, I'll get with Ernst this week and get the order in for the rebar.
 - I'll reintegrate with the rental companies this week also on the boring bit extensions.
 - We do not have to pay for this. Dick reminded Village of Corwin regarding their commitment to pay ½.
- 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

2. Guests.

- Anthony A Cook Jr. Co-founder Cartridge Brewery.
 Anthony gave the Board a brief bio of his business and community involvement. He presented the 3 prong approach that Cartridge Brewery has towards engagement in the community. Cartridge Brewing is slated to open their doors in October with a full kitchen and brewery. He brought to the Board several suggestions on collaborating with FLMSP

3. FLMSP.

- Annual Meeting. When and where? Officer recommendations? Board member recommendations? Topics? Plans.

Because of CVD-19, our Annual Meeting has been postponed. Our current thinking is we will reschedule it when such meetings are allowed again. 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.

- Fosters Bridge Top Rail. Don Hahn, Rich Easterly, and Michael Hayden.
 - The braces on the east side of bridge over Bear Run at Old 3C (Foster) at mile 37.7 are mostly disconnected and the fence is leaning toward the trail. This requests your help since it's a fence issue. Please take a look at it and see what you think can be done and if your fence team can do a temporary repair.

If it falls, ODNR should be contacted directly to go for emergency funds.
 - Rich Easterly checked the bridge/fence. It is above our capability. Will get in touch with EADS Fence for a possible solution/estimate. For now, the fence still functions
- Miscellaneous
 - The dead tree concentration south of Corwin. 50+ dead trees in about ¾-mile span.
 - **Should start getting locations where Kyle can do grading during the winter. Last year what he did was very helpful.**

4. Organization/Relationships.

- Loveland Castle. Representatives from Loveland Castle have setup a tent north of Loveland for the purpose of raising funds to preserve the Loveland Castle. It is not on ODNR property.

FLMSP



will leave in Melissa hands.

5. Events

- ❑ Fall Fund Drive – T-shirt or bike shirt (Rick Forrester)

6. Trail Safety

Larry Bloomfield

- Intersection Model.
 - Road surface: ladders
 - Road surface: Trail Ahead
 - Road surface vertical signage: 45 degree down arrow pointing to the trail
 - Trail: Center line
 - Trail: STOP AHEAD sign or Flashing STOP sign

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

- Intersections. Don Mills
 - INTERSECTION LADDERING BY COUNTY
 - 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. We have been using Rustoleum gloss white oil-based paint from Home Depot or Lowes. Greene County Engineers use a product from Sherwin Williams or Kleem for painting road intersections. ODOT has a road paint #643 and #642 that is also a possibility - probably can get that from A&A Safety.
 - 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)
 - Clermont Cty 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) We need to check with Amanda before ordering.

Ron motioned that we fund another set of flashing stop signs (up to 2,500) same make & model purchased at Fosters to be installed at Wards Corner and to make Wards Corner our first model intersection. Dick seconded. Approved

- St Rt 123.
 - Branch Hill/Bridge (Clermont County)

Timing for the above is unknown, but funding is available.

- Fences. Rich Easterly.

- Moving the lumber from Caesars Creek is a great idea. But before that happens, we need to take a tour of Caesars Creek and the area at Fosters to get a good idea of the quantity of lumber we are talking about. Regardless we will need a flatbed truck or a 12' trailer to move any and all of this lumber. Let me know who on the Board is willing to help in the "survey" so that we might get together.

The boards are 10-12' long. Ron stated that we have a large quantity of fence material at the barn at Fosters. 16 16' foot long boards. Steve will let Rich know

- Counters. Ron Gorley.

- Permanent counter has been operational since August 5th. August 7 – Sept. 6th over 29,000 trail visits.
 - If counter reports 0 – an alarm is set with Trail State Trails.

- Trail Sentinel Program. Don Hahn.

- Helmets for Sentinels
 - Vests are too hot during summer. Madison Cty have a helmet cover to identify them. We currently have 15 sentinels.

- Trail Blowing. Pete Hostetter. At Pete's recommendation the FLMSP web site has been changed so that those blowing the trail can post the dates and times for the upcoming blowings. What I have learned is that trail users with a variety of interests (e.g. bladders, boarders) consult our web site to know when the next blowing will take place.

7. 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. **Ron/Dick will remind Melissa**
 - 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.

There is still a process, but not the lengthy capital process.. Also, maps/brochures have arrived. **Becky will pick up the maps at Cowen**

- Corwin Rd 18.3

8. Trail Condition

- **Stabilizations.** ODNR.
 - Trail Erosion at I-71.
- **Bumps, Crack-filling.**
 - The last time we did crack-filling was some number of years ago. This is something that should be on our radar. **Owner?**

9. Amenities

- Web Site.
 - Rod Martin has begun work on updating the “core” of FLMSp’s web site.
- Kiosks.
 - Morrow. Becky Retzer is working with Carol Whitacre and head of improvement committee
- Spring Valley Port-o-let. Dick Feldmann
The portable restroom along the Little Miami State Park trail is now dressed up and sitting on level ground.

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.



Funding for the enclosure’s materials came from a generous donation by Appletree Pet Clinic in Deer Park, Ohio. The enclosure was built by FLMSp volunteers Jim Shively, Dick Feldmann, Mary Ann Wendeln, and Mike Hill. FLMSp thanks Spring Valley ACTS for their continuing support to the trail-using community and the citizens of Spring Valley.

- Spring Valley Kiosk. Dick Feldmann. 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.
- Benches. Ron Gorley.
 - **MM9.0,3.4 or ~22/to be determined by donor**. (Ron is scouting exact locations to offer to donor) Carolyn Folger donor.
STATUS: Will offer one of these 3 sites to donor, will advise when selection made.
 - **MM16.8/Between Corwin and Oregonia**. (Ron is scouting exact site) Donated by Suellen Applebaum, in addition to kiosk donation.
STATUS: Waiting for plaque wording from donor. I assume funds will be sent with payment
 - **MM23.6/Ft. Ancient Bypass**. Donated by Richard Cocks/Cocks Family Giving Fund.
STATUS: Bench paid for and ordered. Will ship no later than 8/21
 - **MM26.8**. Ron is scouting exact site. Donated by Melvin Stamper and Maria Blake. New bench site.
STATUS: Waiting for plaque wording from donor and funds. Just committed on July 19.
 - **MM30.0/Stubbs Mills**.
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.

10. Funding

- Grants. Becky Retzer.
Becky suggested we work on looking towards larger projects that would be a good fit for several larger grants.
- Pipe Safes.
 - Install pipe safe in South Lebanon?

11. Beauty

- Reforestation. Rick Forrester. Opening the beautiful view at Spring Valley Nature Preserve is a good work project.
- Invasive Control. Jim Mason. Planning on treating the Ailanthus area I did last year on Corwin Rd next week. I have several areas to look at in addition to that one. Becky wanted me to look at the prairie area also along Corwin Rd. I'm 7 weeks into my back surgery --- 4 fusions and 10 screws. Getting around better. Let me know of anything else I should look at.
- Pollinator: Becky Retzer
Becky will be working with an Eagle Scout referral for signage or small kiosk for the area.

12. Volunteer Recruitment, Onboarding, Recognition

- Volunteer Steering Committee. – No update

13. Calendar.

- Spring 2020-Fall 2021 SR 48 and US 22:
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

14. Miscellaneous Projects Needing Capital and/or Labor

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

15. Meeting Schedule.

Future General Board Meetings will be online using ZOOM until the current COVID-19 restrictions are relaxed. The next General Board Meeting will be Wednesday, October 14 at 6:30 using ZOOM.

The Annual Meeting will be postponed until the current CVD-19 restrictions are relaxed. Tentative is November.

Ron motioned that the meeting adjourned, Dick seconded. Approved

