

**Friends of the Little Miami State Park
TEAMS Online General Board Meeting 04-14-2021
Meeting Agenda**

Call to Order: Steve Murphy

Introduction of Members and Guests: Steve Murphy

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

Guests: Melissa Clark (ODNR), Fritz Bushman

Approval of Minutes from 2021-03-14: Becky Retzer

Becky motioned that the minutes from 03/14/2021 be approved, Dick seconded. Approved

"Just to let you know all the new benches are much needed and appreciated. Thanks to all for their time and hard work. Regards Chris and Gary Davis"

Notes:

JUST TO LET YOU KNOW,
ALL THE NEW BENCHES
ARE MUCH NEEDED AND
APPRECIATED. THANKS TO
ALL FOR THEIR TIME
AND HARD WORK.
REGARDS,
PAM + GARY
DAVIS



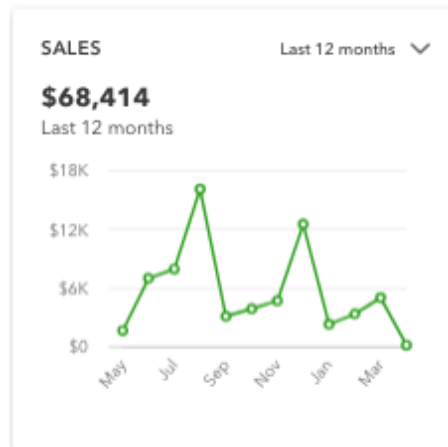
Treasurer's Report - Dick Feldmann (5 min)

Cash on Hand:	3/10/2021	4/14/2021	Change +/-
Unrestricted	\$52,965	\$56,328	+3,363
Restricted	9,974	9,022	(952)
Safety	737	737	
Memorial bench & Kiosk*	9,237	8,285	
Reserved	2,105	2,105	0
Pollinator garden program	1,350	1,350	
Corwin Shelter	755	755	
Operating Account	12,603	15,009	+2,406
Savings Account	52,384	52,390	+6
Receivables	56	56	0
Total	\$65,043	\$67,455	+2,412

* Once Spring Valley Kiosk is completed, we will have fulfilled the request on the Aug 2020 Applebaum donation and the remainder will be reclassified as unrestricted.

Treasurer Narrative: Dick Feldmann

- Financial Statements sent to board on April 11th.
- Expenses requiring board motion.
 - Nothing of note this month.
- Major Income items:
 - No major donations in March
 - Spring membership drive brought in over \$4,000.



- Major Expense items approved and paid:
 - Power pruner for Tom McCray \$600
- Other Items of Interest
 - The Home Depot tax exempt status renewed – Use FLMSF phone number to gain access: 513-212-6958
 - SFM Insurance
 - Directors & Officers Liability Insurance is \$1,245 for the 1-year renewal. Approved at last board meeting.
 - SFM offering us an add-on of a Employment Practices Liability (ELPI) Insurance at \$250/year.

“Employment Practices Liability (ELPI) which comes with 3rd party wrongful acts, this would provide coverage for allegations of wrongful eviction, sexual harassment and

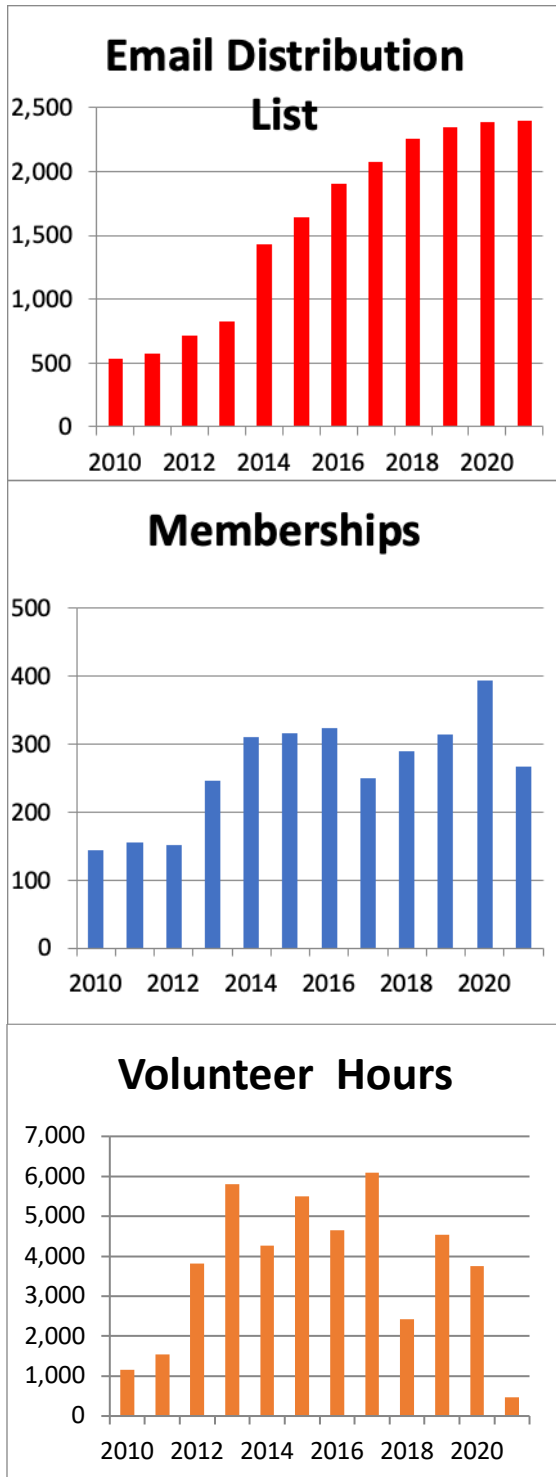
protected Discrimination brought by residents, customers, patrons, contactors & vendors – people that are not employees.”

Fritz volunteered to research the above ELP insurance and report to Dick on his findings

Dick has also updated the Home Depot account info.

Metrics: Steve Murphy (5 min)

	<u>03-10-2021</u>	<u>04-14-2021</u>	<u>+/-</u>
Email Distribution List:	2,388	2,407	+19
Memberships:	179	267	+88
Volunteer Hours:	169	471	+302
Facebook "Followers":	1,696	1,919	+223
Twitter "Followers":	57	57	+0



STRATEGIC PLAN.

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

2021 PLANNING

- Annual Meeting.
 - When and where?
 - Currently 4 Board members are up for election this year 2021, i.e. President, Vice President, Treasurer, and one Member at Large.
 - Based on the list below we need to recruit a new Vice President.

Current Board members:

- Steve Murphy, President 2-year term 2019-2021
Steve **will be** standing for reelection at the 2021 Annual Meeting.
 - Ron Gorley, Vice President 2-year term 2019-2021
Ron **will not be** standing for reelection at the 2021 Annual Meeting.
 - Dick Feldmann, Treasurer 2-year term 2019-2021
Dick **will be** standing for reelection at the 2021 Annual Meeting
 - Becky Retzer, Secretary 2-year term 2020-2022
 - Bruce Cortright, Member at Large 2-year term 2019-2021
Bruce **will be** standing for reelection at the 2021 Annual Meeting.
 - Rick Forrester, Member at Large 2-year term 2020-2022
 - Larry Bloomfield, Member at Large 2-year term 2020-2022
- Remote Meetings

The plan is for FLMSPP to make the change to Microsoft TEAMS at its 03/10/2021 Board meeting. The 03/10/2021 was successful. The use of TEAMS will continue with the 04/14/2021 Board meeting.

 - We need to remember that we will need a new Vice President. Also Ron reminded the Board that we need to publish any changes to the By-Laws 2 meeting prior to the Annual Meeting for a vote.

0. ODNR.

- Friends Group Agreements. Dick Feldmann.

I still wish they would take another cut at Paragraph #6. I don't think it says what they say it says. Nevertheless, I see very minimal changes to how we've been doing business. Following are the minimal changes that I think we need to look into:

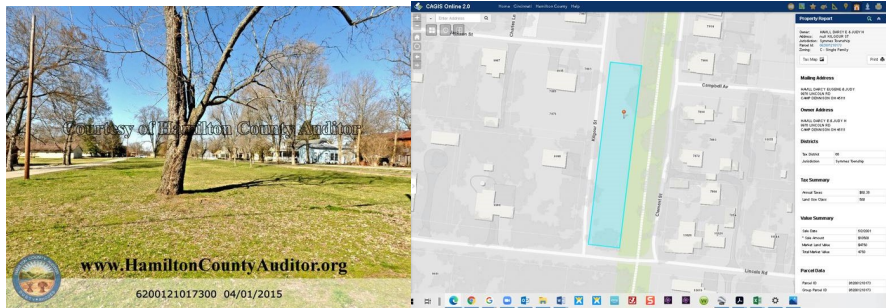
 1. I am almost positive that the RR signals house at Fosters which we're using as a tool cache is on park property, and therefore a park asset. Per paragraph 10, if we don't already have a written agreement, we probably need to work one up to allow FLMSPP to continue using the building as a tool cache.

2. The pipe safes/donation drop boxes are on state property. The donations we get out of these are minimal. If you insist, I will arrange to turn the pipe safes over to you to collect. However, I recommend we just leave the current arrangement in place. I believe that at present there is no cost or labor being incurred by the state on those.
3. We of course report our activities at the membership annual meeting which you attended last winter. So, do we need a review of our activity with you now, or can we do this before or after our annual meeting in November?
4. For any new activities, we will of course continue to consult with you. It just now we will need to keep an eye out for any activities that require a written agreement.

Beyond these few items, do you see any other areas where we need to change or refine our working relationship?

- Melissa stated that a clarification email/letter will be sent re. Paragraph 6 from legal.
 - She said the pipe safe arrangement if fine as is.
 - Building/properties we are using need to be formalized in writing.
 - Annual planning meeting – we will need to do in a more formal matter. Dick suggested that we meet either before or after the FLMSP annual meeting.
 - Melissa reiterated the FLMSP is compliant and that these policies are a result of some issues that may have occurred with other groups.
 - A few Board members did not receive the MOU and supporting documents. Melissa will resent
- Capital plan. Federal Grant opportunity: repave Hedges Road (MM 3.3) to Roxanna-New Burlington (MM 8.4). Matt Lindsay MVRPC.
 “...avenues are being researched for ways in which either ODOT or perhaps Greene County can apply on behalf of ODNr for a project along that stretch of the Little Miami Scenic Trail. Service Transportation or Transportation Alternatives dollars should that be found and an application be put in September 2021 you’d be looking at having money available for that project in four or five years --- that’s the pace at which these federal projects just proceed...”
 - There is a deadline for ODOT or Green Co. to apply
 - Ron mentioned that there are other issues/requirements that should be looked at and taken into consideration.
- Corwin Shelter. Dick Feldmann and Melissa Clark.
 - Melissa said that the shelter will be hopefully completed before June. It is high on their priority list.
 - A discussion on ODNr park employees – ODRN park employees are back in the parks, support staff is not. Casey is no longer with Melissa. Steve is new person. Carol is still part of their staff. The plan is Randy & Carol will be on the trail Monday through Thursday. Steve will come in Friday, Saturday & Sunday to clean Corwin..
- Bridges and Bridge Surfaces
 - Rte 22/3 Bridge
 - Beech St Bridge
 - O’Bannon Creek
 - Bridges are scheduled to begin but wait on backordered lumber may be an issue.
 - South of Morrow Berm xxx

- This work is now complete
- Camp Dennison Pollinator Garden.
- Mr. D'Arcy Havill is willing to donate the property below.



- FLMSP would use this property for a second Pollinator Garden.
- ODNR is willing to accept Mr. Havill's offer, but it will take some unknown amount of time for ODNR to process this donation.
 - Melissa said it could take up to 9 months.
 - Board declined the use of the property until the official transfer takes place. (See March Board minutes).

Strategic Plan 2021 Projects mapped onto the Strategic Plan.

1. Safety

- Speed limits: "Recommend posting slower speed limits on crowded sections of trail. Recommended speed limits? Wherever we put/paint speed limit signage we should decide what the speed limits should be. I've seen a 20 mph sign south of Fosters. I like 12 mph in congested areas." Larry Bloomfield.

Speed Limit Sign Locations. Ron Gorley/Melissa Clark

"I watched a webinar today about e-bikes on the Arizona trail - they rely on the trail user to practice good judgment when operating any class of e-bike. Speed enforcement is difficult at best, but maybe more speed limit signs will encourage e-bikers to use good judgment. A slower speed limit - 12 mph- may be more appropriate in congested areas, i.e. Loveland." Larry Bloomfield.

Do we do vertical signs or painted pavement. If we post speed limits, it is one more thing that trail users can ignore and we can't enforce. An alternative is to post "You are entering a congested area" signs. This approach would position FLMSP as a friend of the trail users instead of an enforcer. Steve Murphy

Dick Feldmann will work with A&A Safety to design a pavement image for ODNR's approval.

- Loveland
- 126
- Milford
- Morrow
- Fosters

- Dick will contact A&S Safety to see about getting the stencil.

- Enforcement. Ron Gorley.

I just got off the phone with Pete Hostetter. One day about two years ago, a runner was coming toward him while he was blowing. Pete was approaching an intersection, so he stopped, waiting for the runner to pass by. The runner turned around, ran in the middle of the road. 1/2 mile later, when Pete was able to pass safely, he did. In his rear view mirror he saw the runner yelling and shaking his fists.

Fast forward to three weeks ago. Pete's certain he came across the same runner. Pete came up from behind the runner and passed safely. He finished his route at Avoca Park and turned around to return the blower. After a few minutes, he again approached the runner, who ran on his left hand side of the trail, so Pete had to stop. Pete rolled down his window so he could explain what he was doing and to try to de-escalate. The runner was yelling almost incoherently f-this and f-that. Pete had enough, so he rolled up his window. The runner then punched his window, then punched his rear window and a third time to the body of his vehicle. No physical damage to the vehicle.

Pete explained that 99% of trail interactions while he is blowing are positive. But if he has a similar experience in the future, he is going to stop trail blowing. He doesn't need the conflict or the fear. I thanked him for the work he has done over the years and expressed my sadness that people would react this way, especially since we volunteers are trying to make for a better experience for trail users like this runner. I told him that I would relate what he said to the rest of the board. This way, we are all informed, and can put into context if we hear similar stories from other volunteers.

In this age of smartphones, in addition to calling the ODNR hotline, does it make sense for us to encourage using video, photos, and sound to document these instances --- or would this just escalate the situation?

- Melissa reminded us that #ODNR should be used when there are safety issues. The more awareness ODNR has that there are problems/issues, the more likely the area will be patrolled.
- She said it would be up to the individual as to how comfortable they would be using their phone for video/pictures.

- Intersections.
- Ladders.
- Sight lines.
- Vertical signage.
- Model Intersection: St Rte 126

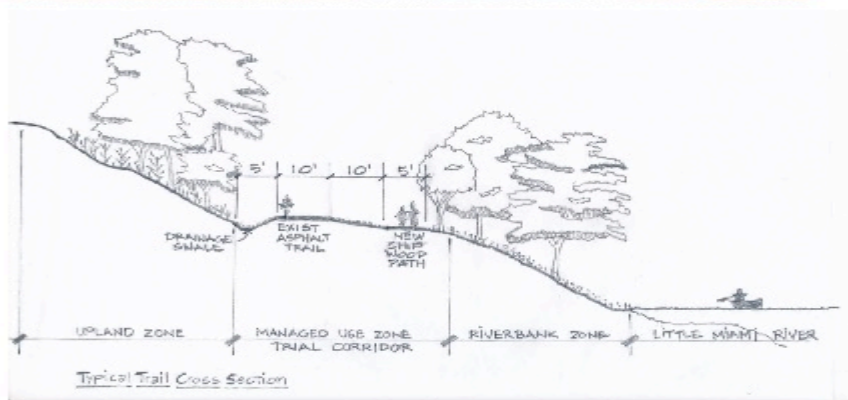
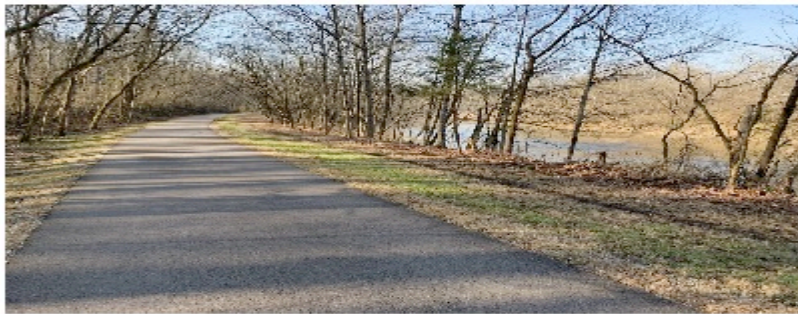


- Flashing STOP sign St Rte 126. Completed by Bruce Cortright.
- Email and photo sent to Robert Osher.
- Berm encroachment
- Pavement markings, e.g. center lines only at intersections.
- Fences
- Trail Sentinels. Do
- n Hahn. Nothing new to report. Current count is 13. Would like to find someone to lead the program. No budget item for 2021 expected.
- Trail Etiquette. 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 (groups of roadies riding fast in a tight formation) are discouraged.

Larry Bloomfield will forward the board-approved etiquette to Janet Slater for inclusion in Trail Mail.

- eBikes: Larry Bloomfield

- Foot Path. John Telintelo. For highly congested areas (e.g. Loveland), consider a path parallel to the current paved trail for walkers and dogs.



The sketch above is of a proposed chip wood path to accommodate the increased foot traffic on the Little Miami Scenic Trail. With the increased traffic on this trail, the existing asphalt trail width reduces the safety for all users. Most riders would prefer the walkers and dogs on a separate path. As an alternative to increasing the width of the asphalt at considerable expense, a separate wood chip path can be created at a small fraction of that cost. Locations where the Little Miami River and Bike Trail are directly adjacent has the potential to enhance a scenic ride or walk. Please consider putting this proposal into a future grant request. The photo above is between MM45 and MM45.5, a ¼ mile section that would benefit from a defined foot path.

Melissa will look at this area by Lake Isabella. Discussion was regarding concern of the maintenance to keep up the path and if this is truly a need. We were reminded that there should be no clearing of areas near the river unless Melissa can identify what should be cleared.

2. Condition & Drainage

- Trail Closure. Bridge work at 22/3 and Fosters. Closure June 7 for 2 months.
- Morrow Sinkhole. Don Hahn.
Fixed by the village of Morrow



- Moeller Athletic Complex. Phil Obermiller. The installation of the Moeller Athletic Complex east of the trail just north of Branch Hill Miamiville Road is having some negative effects. Heavy equipment is crossing the trail at the foot of Perry Street and is beginning to tear up the surface.
 - Steve asked if we had any contact info if the trail becomes damaged.
 - Storage Caches.
 - Spring Valley.
 - Morrow/South Lebanon.
 - Fosters.
 - Miamiville/Camp Dennison. Bruce Cortright
 - Shipping Container
 - Bump Grinding. Don Hahn. Bumps on the entire 50 miles of trail were ground in October 2020 as I reported in a memo to the board, presentation at Annual Meeting and in TrailMail. Recommendations were listed in my memo. No action is needed in 2021.
 - Crack Filling.
 - Erosion.
 - Culverts.
 - Trail Tool Caches.
3. Volunteer Management. Becky Retzer, Dick Feldman
- Individual Volunteer Agreement (IVA) Forms. Becky Retzer.
 - New ODNR forms adapted and uploaded to website.

- The Waiver can coincide with the IVA form every two years.
- Functionality. Volunteer recruitment, onboarding, hours, recognition.
- Software. Still reviewing software, e.g. Signup Genius, Volgistics.

4. Amenities/Convenience

- Trash Cans. Fritz Buschman.
If you want to move the trash cans farther down the trail a small distance, I will commit to checking them about every 10 days or so.
- Benches. Ron Gorley
 - Second bench in front of Izaak Walton League in Loveland.
- Kiosks.
 - Spring Valley. Dick Feldmann.



- Morrow. Carol Whitacre.
 - Modify existing 3-sided structure (less expensive) or build new “standard” kiosk ala Loveland (more expensive).
 - Becky was contacted by Tracey Stump regarding a bike rack, repair station, kiosk and dog waste supplies for Morrow.
- Eagle Scout project. Oregonia for Pollinator Garden
- PortaLets
 - Dick will confirm with Melissa before removing portalet at Corwin (5/15)
 - Morrow to be removed 5/1
 - Fosters can be removed asap.
- Bike racks. Ron Gorley

Location	# Bike Racks
Morrow	
Phegley Park	None xxxBecky
Spring Valley	None Dick
Grandin	None
- Bicycle repair stations.

5. Beauty

- Trash.

- Butterfly/Pollinator Garden. Becky Retzer.
 - Waiting to hear back from Jim Mason on treatment and when seed can be sown. Jim will treat on 4/15 –
- Reforestation. Rick Forrester.
 - Rick has a group of volunteer help pot 246 Trees/shrubs.
 - Has an order with Clermont Cty for mainly bushes/shrubs.
- Invasive control. Jim Mason.

6. FLMSP Administration.

- Succession. It's time to make this a priority.
 - Bruce Cortright suggested Bill Brown, Fritz Bushmand and/or John Tellitino would all be excellent candidates to consider.
- Volunteer Virtual Meetings. Becky Retzer, Dick Feldman.
- Funding, e.g. donations, memberships, grants.
- Counters. Ron Gorley.
 - 2019 1,530,226
 - 2020 2,349,416
 - 2021
- Events
 - Helmet event. Don Hahn. The 2021 helmet giveaway will be May 22 10:00AM-2:00PM in Nesbitt Park. I would like to find a leader of this event; none of last year's event volunteers were willing to lead this year. I will be asking the board to authorize an expenditure \$300 to purchase helmets --- 60 * \$5.00. This year 190 helmets will be given away.
- Technology.
 - Web site. Rod Martin.
 - Upgrade web site "core".
- Relationships, e.g. Loveland, etc.

7. Outreach.

• **Meeting Schedule.**

Future General Board Meetings will be virtual via Microsoft TEAMS until the current COVID-19 restrictions are relaxed. The next TEAMS General Board Meeting will be Wednesday May 12 6:30-8:30.

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

Ron asked Melissa if ODNR could pull ou the front street sign in Morrow while they are working on removing the pear trees.

Bruce mentioned that 3 pipe safes near Rt. 350 need to be removed.

Steve made a motion to adjourned. All agreed.