



Groen Visioning Committee

Thursday, December 8, 2011 – 1:30 p.m.
Johannesburg-Lewiston Schools
Media Center – 10854 M-32
Johannesburg, MI 49751

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Olsen called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

Members Present —Lee Olsen, John Burt, Jim Hilgendorf, Pam Duczkowski, Mike Tarbutton, Don Sklarczyk, Butch Fleming, Matt Nowak, Kevin Kennedy

Others Present —Roger Latusek, Mary Latusek

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Review/Update of June 24 Tasks

1. Mapping

Burt and Tarbutton used GPS to map the trails at the property. Roger Latusek then proofed the map and made corrections.

2. Historic Photo Collection

Nowak continues to collect historic photos and information. The group discussed needing to collect as much historic information as possible prior to commencing work on Phase 2 of the project.

3. Hilgendorf and Duczkowski have a meeting set with Jim Akans and Phil Alexander to discuss filming the oral history interviews. Hilgendorf asked whether the office in the horse barn could be used as the location for the interviews. Roger Latusek will check with the Trust Fund Board and their attorney to see whether that would be permissible.

Sklarczyk suggested first interviewing Bill and Sally Kujawa so that they could provide an overview of the history of the property which might help interviewers guide the subjects of the later interviews.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Priority Establishment

The Committee discussed and set the priorities of the Committee with the first being Phase 1 of the project, with historic photo collection and oral histories going on simultaneously. Planning for Phase 2 would come after the first goals are largely completed.

B. Phase 1 Discussion

1. Hours of Operation

The Committee recommended that the property only be open initially on weekends and for one weeknight per week. The check in station must be staffed to ensure compliance with the Conservation Easement.

2. Bathrooms

A portable toilet will be needed at the entranceway along with a more substantial bathroom within the inner property. The Committee decided the best location would be near the remnants of the former lumberjack camp. The Committee discussed the need to have the bathroom blend into the surrounding area. The Committee also discussed putting in a well and drain field for the full bathroom since this will continue to be used in Phase 2. They discussed having the well be made to replicate the well with windmill that is in the area. The Committee discussed using pine wood for structures to blend and match the history of the property.

3. Fencing of Lumberjack Camp

Mary Latusek discussed the need to fence around the area of the former lumberjack camp since there are holes that are not readily apparent. Approximately 2 acres will need to be fenced.

4. Sign Plan

The Committee discussed having a few overview signs showing where people are located and the trail distances, along with other directional signs that could continue to be used for Phase 2. Other signs needed include historic information signs, no trespassing signs for the fence along the Schroeder property, perimeter signs, and signs warning people away from Mrs. Groen's 25 acre piece of property.

5. Check-in Station

The building must be movable and blend in with the surroundings. Preserve guests must sign in and out when entering and leaving the property. A shed for an ORV will be needed for staff use.

6. Donations

The Committee discussed the need to solicit donations to offset costs.

7. Volunteers

Volunteers will be needed to help patrol the property.

8. Echo Valley Resort Lodge Roof

The options on replacing the roof include asphalt shingles at a cost of approximately \$5,600 or metal shingle-replica roof for approximately \$18,500. Roger Latusek worked with Jones Construction and UBC to arrive at estimates. There are concerns over whether the walls could take the weight of the metal roof when there is snow.

9. Groen Nature Preserve Logo

A logo is needed for the Preserve to be used on all literature and signs.

10. Property Abstract

Nowak has some property cards that shows some of the past buildings on the property. He indicated an abstract for the property which shows the owners and years of ownership would be helpful to put the information together. He indicated that if he had all of the deeds he could put the information together. Nowak mentioned a property card showing that the planning mill burned down in a fire in the 1920s. He wondered whether that type of information could be found in the Herald Times archives.

11. Emerald Ash Borer

Roger Latusek indicated that the emerald ash borer has been found on the property. Mike Cass, a forester recommended by Patricia Osburn, is putting together recommendations on how to deal with the issue. There are approximately 300 ash trees within a 20 acre area north of Johannesburg Lake that are affected. Ideas include taking the lumber to Warehousen who can take the wood with a state inspection. No stumps should be left. An idea was to have the stumps cut into chips to be spread for trails. The Committee also discussed mechanical versus horses to harvest the wood. The idea of trading the wood for wood to use for building the new facilities was also discussed.

C. Phase 1 Tasks to Complete

1. Gate and gravel for entrance area – to be completed by Roger Latusek in the spring.
2. Design for Check-in building and storage shed – Burt and Tarbuton will work with architect.
3. Electricity for check-in building – Burt and Tarbuton will work with architect.
4. Former Lumberjack Camp Area Bathroom including well and drain field – Burt and Tarbuton will work with architect.
5. Sign Plan and Design – Burt and Tarbuton will work on plan and sign designs.
6. Former Lumberjack Camp Area Fencing – Burt and Tarbuton will work on this.

7. Echo Valley Resort – Burt and Tarbutton will work with engineer at feasibility and cost of using the metal mock-shingle roof.
8. Logo – Burt will work with the Gaylord Area Council for the Arts on the design.
9. Property Abstract – Burt will work on obtaining deed information.

D. Next Meeting Date

The Committee will meet in January or February once Burt and Tarbutton have collected information and costs.

Mr. Olsen adjourned the meeting at 2:50 p.m.