

February 17, 2012

Dear Friends:

As Stewards, we appreciate the work of the Site Envisioning Committee and others for organizing the meeting in Bloomington, Illinois, this January, in which the proposed site plan for the ILYM property was shared with other Friends. We support how the yearly meeting is looking at all the components of the site, including the buildings, the pathways, the land, the flora, and the sky. From this meeting and other meetings in the past, we are glad that ILYM seeks to best utilize these resources in as “earth friendly” a way as possible while at the same time supports the needs of our diverse faith community.

Based on the rich and full report from the *Specially Called Meeting for Site Envisioning*, with a list of items which should not be ignored or overlooked, we strongly encourage the yearly meeting and Continuing Committee to develop systematic ways to implement this site plan. From our experience as Stewards, we would like to propose that some of the recommendations be implemented in an orderly fashion this year. Although addressing accessibility and making the property more fully useful to the broadest base of visitors as possible are top priorities, we suggest Continuing Committee consider removing two unneeded structures and a significant pile of trash this spring while preparing for the possibility of adding electricity to some of the cabins during this calendar year.

At the March 2012 Continuing Committee Meeting, we would like to see approval of the following:

1. The Maintenance and Planning Committee arrange to deconstruct the Long Metal Shed east of Clear Creek House. The deconstruction will NOT include the western most room used for storage. All concrete in this structure will not be removed at this time, just the building up to the western room. The 2" x 4" studs removed from the structure will be de-nailed and stacked in a storage building on the ILYM property. Because the aluminum will be sold to a recycling center, the cost of deconstruction of this building should be minimal since recycled aluminum has a good resale value. Within the area surrounding the yearly meeting campus, we are investigating the price of recycled aluminum similar to that used on the Long Metal Shed.
2. The Maintenance and Planning Committee also arrange to deconstruct and remove the milk processing room from the north side of the dairy barn. The roof has fallen in on this 15' x 15' concrete block structure added to the dairy building.
3. The Maintenance and Planning Committee arrange the removal of the trash, including trees, from the area south of the Clear Creek House, east of the barn, in the best means possible, including, if desirable, careful burning. This areas is not only unsightly, but prevents the yearly meeting from developing the landscape, including a prairie, as planned.

We see these three projects as separate but desirable to do at the same time. They could all be done by Dancing Rabbit from an intentional community in Missouri; this group deconstructed the old dormitory and prepared the lumber for use in the cabins. Since Dancing Rabbit members are available in the spring before cropping season begins, we recommend that this task be completed this spring. While local persons might be found to do this work, we have contacted Dancing Rabbit for an estimate of costs of their doing the work.

For the yearly meeting session in June, we recommend that:

4. The Maintenance and Planning Committee collect bids to put electricity into several of the cabins to be used by persons needing electricity for medical reasons, such as, c-PAP machines.
5. The Maintenance and Planning Committee or another committee develop a plan to convert the Clear Creek House garage from a garage to a two- or three-room handicap accessible sleeping room with two restrooms and one laundry facility. As part of this conversion, we recommend that the western entrance to Clear Creek House be made handicap accessible. This plan, with estimates of costs, should be submitted to the ILYM Annual Session for approval.