

10.27.12

Illinois Yearly Meeting  
Site Envisioning Committee

**Report to Continuing Committee at the meetinghouse in McNabb**

We met in McNabb on the morning of September 8<sup>th</sup>

We confirmed times scheduled to meet during the year:

- Fall Work Weekend
- Late Fall meeting by conference call
- Winter meeting by conference call
- Meeting at Spring Work Weekend – Date to be determined
- Meeting Thursday afternoon June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at Annual Session

Site Envisioning Committee has been charged with participation in several projects to prepare for consideration at the next Annual Sessions in June of 2013.

1. Border plantings and Hedgerow with ECC.
2. Pathways – approach and scope with ECC.
3. Further design and price for accessible bedroom/bathroom addition at Clear Creek House with M&P (Est. @ \$80-\$120,000 and new septic).
4. Proposal for renovations to the campground bath house with M&P.
5. Proposal to add bathroom(s) at the meeting house with M&P.
6. Discussion of options for affordable above ground dining space.

We anticipate the need to contact ECC and M&P to identify and breakdown our roles.

As we look at all of these projects we also need to be aware of declining participation at the yearly meeting level while at the same time trying to make our facilities more conducive to more year-round uses. We discussed the need to encourage more involvement from younger folks, local folks, etc. Our feeling was that we should focus on items 3, 4, and 5 which seem most critical and would increase the numbers and improve the conditions of our bathroom facilities which are most primitive and lacking, and add to our overnight accommodations.

The committee is also represented on the Ad-Hoc Property Use Committee that will develop guidelines for the use of the site (Chip attended the initial phone meeting representing SEC and the subsequent meeting held in McNabb on October.14th) and the Ad-Hoc Committee to make the CAMP a more useful tool and help us to sustain and maintain our facilities (Chip and Chris are serving on this committee for SEC).

We need to discern how we can better involve all of our committee members in decision making and try to even out the distribution of committee work over this year. We still need a person to represent SEC to the Ad-Hoc Property Use Committee or attendance participation might rotate among committee members.

Having completed the overall plan for the campus this past year we plan to discuss the purpose of the Site Envisioning Committee as we move forward and whether it should continue beyond this year, or if other committees such as M&P or ECC can be charged with carrying the plan out into the future. Does the Site Envisioning Committee continue to have a role of guiding the overall vision and development of our campus and facilities?

Carol Bartles presented us with a new item for our consideration. Betty Wolf would like to give a house to the yearly meeting. The house is an original Quaker homestead built by the Wilsons in about 1850. We visited the house with Carol after our September meeting. The house is a two-story frame Greek Revival residence and would have to be moved to some location on our property. It has a T shaped plan with the main portion at the top of the t and a 1-1/2 story kitchen portion at the bottom of the T. It had two porches on each side of the kitchen (one side has since been enclosed) and may or may not have had a front porch. The house appears to be in fair shape from the exterior but we were unable to get inside.

Possible uses include additional overnight accommodations for retreats and meetings, renovation for bathrooms (first floor) with caretaker quarters above, or entirely for the use of a caretaker. Site locations might include the far northwest corner of the site near the road, and the area next to the barn behind the Clear Creek house where the thicket is now located, and perhaps others not yet identified. An initial estimate to move the house is about \$25,000 and it would need a new foundation which might also cost as much as \$25,000. It would also need fairly extensive interior and exterior renovation to make it ready for a new use (though probably much less than building a new similar structure).

We suggest that the Yearly Meeting consider whether or not we want and can make good use of the house. There is no rush to make a decision and it could stay in its present location for at least two or three years.

Respectfully submitted

Chip Rorem  
Clerk  
Site Envisioning Committee