

**Report to Illinois Yearly Meeting from the Stewards
Continuing Committee, Illinois Yearly Meeting House
2013 March 9**

Carol Bartles, Dick Ashdown, and Roy Treadway, Stewards

Since the last Continuing Committee meeting in October 2012, the stewards have been active in many ways.

Deconstruction of the Long Shed, Milk Shed, and Pallets

From 2012 November 1 to 6, six members of the Dancing Rabbits, working 5-1/2 long days, made significant changes to the west portion of the Illinois Yearly Meeting campus. Carol Bartles made arrangements for the Dancing Rabbits, and Dick Ashdown and Neil Mesner reviewed their work from time to time.

On the LONG SHED, most of wood frame and aluminum roof and sides of the east portion of the long shed were removed and made available for recycling or reuse by a neighboring farmer, who helped with the work. A storage room was built over the existing cement slab, just east of the tool room on the west of the (former) long shed, using wood and aluminum siding from the long shed and a door which had been stored in the barn. Pallets and other wood in the long shed were burned, and the poorest of the mattresses and metal bed frames recycled or thrown out. The aluminum siding has been moved to the farmer's house with the expectation that it will be recycled soon. The roof of the MILK SHED (attached to the barn) has been removed, but the rafters are sagging in place, with a lot of rotten material inside the room. Most of the concrete blocks and solid glass blocks remain for future work by ILYM. On the SOUTH SIDE OF THE CLEAR CREEK HOUSE GARAGE, since the existing fiber-board siding was seriously falling apart, exposing the garage to deterioration from the elements, the fiber-board siding was removed and replaced by vinyl siding purchased by the previous owner and stored in the garage. In the AREA SOUTH OF THE CLEAR CREEK HOUSE, the significant number of wooden pallets and middle-size tree trunks were removed and burned. Very large tree trunks still need to be removed, using appropriate equipment. Many middle-size mulberry and maple trees in the area also need to be cut down and burned by ILYM members. An attractive cherry tree has been saved as a valuable addition to the trees growing on the ILYM campus.

We are working to find someone (or a group) to clean up or burn some of the material outside where the Long Shed was. With most of the long shed deconstructed and the area south the Clear Creek House cleaned up, the yearly meeting can move forward on unifying and beautifying our lovely campus.

Replacement of Kitchen Window at the Clear Creek House

Shortly after the work by the Dancing Rabbits work on the ILYM Property, in early November, just after Meeting for Worship at Clear Creek Meeting, the window on east of the kitchen of the Clear Creek House "pulled out," shattered in pieces. The stewards engaged Paul Ebner of Ebner Construction to replace that window with an energy-efficient window that could be opened.

Propane Billing for Illinois Yearly Meeting

At the request of the Finance the Committee, the Stewards are working with the Clear Creek Meeting and the Finance Committee to "regularize" the billing for propane use on campus, including the Clear Creek House, so that there are no "surprise" bills after the fiscal year ends just after the annual sessions, while recognizing propane costs are cheapest in the summer.

Insurance Policy Review

The stewards are working on the three year review of the yearly meeting's insurance policy.

Involvement on ILYM Committees

The stewards have been involved with other committees of ILYM. Carol Bartles served on both the Maintenance and Planning Committee and the *Ad Hoc* Property Use Committee, Dick Ashdown was active on the Site Envisioning Committee, while Roy Treadway was involved with the Environmental Concerns Committee, the Finance Committee, and the *Ad Hoc* Comprehensive Asset Management and Planning (CAMP) Committee.

Change in the Handbook Description of the Stewards

The stewards would like to recommend a change in the Illinois Yearly Meeting description of the Stewards in the ILYM Handbook – pp. 12-13 online version. In developing this recommendation, we have informed with the Handbook Committee. A final decision should be made during the Annual Sessions in June, but feedback from Continuing Committee is welcome.

Background

The 2010 version of the Handbook had the following statement of the stewards' membership on other committees of ILYM (as the last paragraph description of the stewards).

The three stewards will be *ex officio* members of the Maintenance and Planning Committee. The stewards will name one of their number to be a representative to the Finance Committee as an *ex officio* member and to serve as a contact person in the budget process.

At the Annual Sessions, June 2012, the yearly meeting approved dropping the last sentence “as this has not been done to date” (*ILYM Minutes, 2012, p.12*) just as Roy Treadway started serving as a liaison to the Finance Committee. Thus, currently the relationship of the stewards to other committees in ILYM as stated in the Handbook is simply:

The three stewards will be *ex officio* members of the Maintenance and Planning Committee.

Current Practice

In reality in 2013, only one steward is active on the Maintenance and Planning Committee (Carol Bartles) while Dick Ashdown is a member of the Site Envisioning Committee and Roy Treadway is a member of the Environmental Concerns Committee and a liaison to the Finance Committee. Since the yearly meeting changed from the trustees to the stewards in 2007, the role of the Environmental Concerns Committee with the property of the yearly meeting has increased considerably and the Site Envisioning Committee has become a permanent committee. Thus, links by the stewards to these four committees – not just to one or two committees – are desirable. At the same time not all the stewards need to be members of the Maintenance and Planning Committee. To have all the stewards on the Maintenance and Planning committee **and** be liaisons to the other three committees puts an overwhelming burden on the stewards.

Recommended Changes

For these reasons, the stewards recommend that Illinois Yearly approve changing the description in the Handbook of the relationship of the stewards to other ILYM committees (last paragraph of the Handbook statement) to the following:

At least one of the stewards will be an *ex officio* member of the Maintenance and Planning Committee and at least one steward will be either a member of or liaison to the Finance, Environmental Concerns, and Site Envisioning Committees to serve as a contact person in the work of these committees. The stewards will decide which steward will be involved in each committee.