

**Report to Illinois Yearly Meeting from the Stewards**  
Continuing Committee 2013 October 19  
Carol Bartles, Dick Ashdown, and Roy Treadway, Stewards

Since the Annual Sessions of Illinois Yearly Meeting in 2013 June, the Stewards have been involved with several projects and have considered other improvements to the yearly meeting campus.

**Projects**

The Stewards have overseen or been involved with the following projects. (Source of funding is given in parentheses.)

**Completed or Underway**

1. In August and September, Ebener Construction painted the west side and northwest corner (bathroom) of the Meetinghouse exterior, tightened cables in the attic, and completely replaced the roof to the campground shower house for \$7,615 (Maintenance).

2. Under the guidance of the Environmental Concerns Committee, a path was graded and smoothed between the Meetinghouse and Clear Creek House with two yew bushes near the CCH garage removed to allow for easy entrance into the Clear Creek House (with a budget of \$1,000 from Property Improvement).

**Expected Soon**

3. The septic tank for the Clear Creek House will be repaired and cleaned for \$500 to \$750 (Maintenance).

4. The south side of the bunkhouse will be painted and four windows repaired an estimated for \$2,900 (Maintenance).

5. The Clear Creek House propane tank will be moved nearer to the Metal Shed once the propane gas is extra low before winter for less than \$150 (Maintenance).

**Proposed when Funds are Available**

6. The Stewards solicited bids for a second toilet and sink in the Meetinghouse for about \$4,000 (Special Gifts).

7. An estimate for improving the campground bathhouse awaits further specifications of the improvements desired (Special Gifts).

8. We have also received an estimate for building accessible bedrooms and toilet facilities in the area of the garage of the Clear Creek House along with a necessary septic field for about \$120,000 (Special Gifts).

**Issues and recommendations on the electrification of the cabins — ILYM next steps.**

At the annual sessions in 2013 June, Illinois Yearly Meeting approved putting two electrical outlets inside and one electrical outlet outside each cabin via underground wiring for medical and safety purposes. The proposed action was vague since no budget amount or budget line (maintenance or property improvement) was specified. From Ebener Construction, the Stewards received an estimate of \$3,800 to complete this project from the electrical grid. Following the yearly meeting sessions, however, the Environmental Concerns Committee raised concerns about the continued use of non-renewable sources of electricity for the yearly meeting grounds (as well

as the increased use of electricity) and more generally the yearly meeting's use of resources overall.

At a joint meeting of the Environmental Concerns, Maintenance and Planning, and Site Envisioning Committees and the Stewards on September 7, several issues regarding electrification of the cabins were discussed. The group was unclear how much the CPAPs were used in cabins and tents now that could not be satisfied by their use in the Clear Creek House. Some Friends were surprised to learn that a few Friends were stringing power cords to their tents for various uses during ILYM sessions; this is potentially a safety issue that the cabin electrification does not address. We wondered whether the limited use of the cabins with electricity justified installing electricity in the cabins. We were also concerned if electricity were installed in the cabins underground in Spring 2014, the campground would be safe to use for the 2014 annual sessions.

Several alternatives were suggested to provide electricity in the cabins (or possibly tents or elsewhere). ECC identified two sizes of portable solar battery units; the smaller (and preferred), lasting 4-10 hours on a charge, would be about \$940 each, and the larger, more powerful unit, lasting 12 to 40 hours on a charge, would cost \$1,800 each. Ebener Construction could provide movable solar panels for \$1,500 each. (They have also proposed a pole-mounted grid tie-solar electric system to offset electrical usage at the Clear Creek House, but this would not directly address electricity in the cabins.) Any of the solar systems to provide electricity would not incur additional costs for electricity or generate additional carbon in the atmosphere, while the grid system would, thus saving electricity costs in the future.

**Because of these issues and concerns, the Stewards will continue to explore with the Environmental Concerns and Maintenance and Planning Committees the best way to provide electricity for persons using the cabins and elsewhere at ILYM, including the use of solar sources of electricity, with no decision expected before the 2014 Annual Sessions.**

### **Development of the Quiet Campground: Recommendations**

Growing out the joint meeting of the Stewards and the Environmental Concerns, Maintenance and Planning, and Site Envisioning Committees on September 7 came a strong feeling the quiet campground should be developed as soon as possible on the west side of the ILYM campus for those who do not want increased use of electricity. It would be a place of limited light and sound. The quiet campground could serve as an example of reduced electricity use and simple lifestyle. During the 2013 Annual Sessions, the yearly meeting approved the Site Envisioning Committee "to investigate the issue of expanded camping in consultation with other ILYM committees" (Minute 26).

**The Stewards recommend that plans for the quiet campground at ILYM be developed for the 2014 Annual Sessions by the Site Envisioning Committee and other committees, with a report to the 2014 Spring Continuing Committee Meeting.**

### **Committee Involvement and Handbook Description of the Stewards**

The stewards have been involved with other committees of ILYM. Carol Bartles served on the Maintenance and Planning Committee, Dick Ashdown was active on the Site Envisioning Committee, while Roy Treadway was a member of the Environmental Concerns Committee and a liaison to the Finance Committee.

These committee roles are not consistent with the current description in the Handbook of the roles of Stewards on Committees. At the Continuing Committee in 2013 March, the following change was approved (with clerical corrections).

**A steward will serve *ex officio* on the Finance, Environmental Concerns, Site Envisioning, and Maintenance and Planning Committees. The stewards will decide which steward of their number is assigned to which of these four committees.**

**The Stewards hope that Handbook can be revised soon to be consistent with the actual committee membership and liaison relationship of the Stewards.**

### **Thanks from Roy Treadway**

Roy Treadway's responsibilities as Steward conclude at the end of the Continuing Committee meetings on 2013 October 19. He will be moving with Carolyn to the Seattle area to be nearer to daughters and their families. He has found fulfillment in his nearly two years as Steward of ILYM and hopes his service has helped the yearly meeting as it continues to develop its property for greater, wider, and deeper purposes. He thanks Friends for their support and friendship for 37 years and will continue to be involved with the yearly meeting through the Environmental Concerns Committee until he and Carolyn move in Summer 2014.