

ILYM Specially Called Meeting for Site Envisioning
Bloomington, IL
January 21, 2012

A group of Friends attended a day-long workshop to further discern the steps for implementing the Site Plan for the yearly meeting property which has been discerned over the past year by the membership and committees of ILYM. Chris Goode and Chip Rorem, volunteer architectural consultants presented the site plan on an overhead screen while twenty participants reviewed paper copies of the plan. Following the group presentation, Maurine Pyle facilitated the formation of small interest groups which met for one hour in deliberation of their special concern. Each group related their proposed action steps for the implementation of the plan, as follows, with the understanding that these would be forwarded to the next Continuing Committee for setting priorities.

Landscape:

The site should serve intergenerational/educational purposes - place and eco-system based experiences

1. Order and plant native shrubs/small trees for phase 2 of western hedgerow (order in March). A budget of \$350 is necessary (50 plants)
2. Find an acre to start a small herb garden (thyme, oregano, mint, chives, etc.)
3. Designate an area on west end as a star gazing place. This would require the ability to turn off the security light. Could silos be used as star gazing platforms?
4. Change security light to dark sky feature (near Clear Creek House)
5. Install more bat houses - find out cost and figure out placement
6. Long term - make the west end a prairie
7. What about honey bees?

Group members: Andrew Bartles, Judy Wolicki, Adrian Fisher, David Finke.

Building Renewal and Removal

Fixing up what we've got before we move on.

1. Remove the Long Shed. (all attendees agreed with this point)
2. Leave the shop section of the Long Shed (or move over) for a time, being until we know how it affects the view (i.e from Clear Creek House to the old meetinghouse).
3. Recycle all metal. Consider using the Dancing Rabbits again.
4. Remove wood-burning furnace, fence, wood due to maintenance issues.
5. Fill in water feature – safety issues. Create a pond or water garden elsewhere.
6. In place of the Long Shed, create a meditation area, benches, pavilion, grape arbor, labyrinth. Keep an open view.
7. Concrete path on the edges of the Long Shed, possible path or border in the area.
8. Remove the Milking or Dairy Shed now.
9. Silos - consider for use as living space for caretaker of retreats. Investigate cost. Wind turbines on top or in the area. (? 2 shiny roofs?)
10. Easy fixes to the Bathhouse on the campground – upgrade, clean up, tighten up. Move the mirrors over the sinks, buy curtains that close for toilets and showers, painting and sealing. Major steps for bathhouse: Expand by moving north walls to enable two more showers for women and men's units. Add one accessible toilet per men and women's unit at the north end. Make water heaters on men's side safer by enclosing them.
11. Electrify the cabins but make sure there is a "no lights after 10 PM" rule to keep the campground quiet. Mainly electric outlets are for medical equipment. 2-3 cabins only.
12. Main campus: building 1-2 more bathrooms near the meetinghouse (tool storage area?) with running water. This feature is needed for summer session, funerals and other large gatherings.

Group members: Grayce Haworth, Janet Means, Dick Ashdown, Beth Schobernd, Roy Treadway, Chris Goode

Accessible Housing

ILYM formed a Working Party for Accessibility a few years ago. In keeping with that research it was determined that an accessible dormitory and dining hall should be built. Since those buildings remain unfunded, it is incumbent upon us to find a short term solution for housing people with disabilities who participate in yearly meeting activities.

1. We purchased the Clear Creek House (CCH) which is not currently accessible. Make entrance accessible in 2012.
2. Restore the garage behind CCH into 2-3 accessible bedroom spaces and 2 bathrooms. A third option is to building another bathroom with an entrance to the outside so that campers can use it.
3. Identify those who have the greatest need for support during ILYM summer sessions and events. Disabilities differ and we need to focus our building designs on those we know who have disabilities.
4. Electrify the cabins for use of medical equipment.

Groups members: Maurine Pyle, Carol Bartles.

New Culture of Stewardship

Help Young Friends and Adult Friends learn to improve or care for the ILYM campus through participation in work weekends.

1. Junior Yearly Meetinghouse has a high priority to deal with basic habitation issues (i.e. mouse pee and turds, climate, deck). Call a joint meeting with Young Friends and Maintenance and Planning Committee.
2. Investigate alternatives for a site stewardship training workshop with Paul Ebener (building contractor for ILYM). Set dates. Hold workshops with participants staying at CCH.
3. Investigate alternatives for site steward/caretaker (ambassador for Quakers per Bill Howenstine.)

4. Set a joint meeting between M&P, Finance Committee, and Stewards to set priorities and explore changes to the Capital Asset Management Plan.
 - Jr. Yearly Meetinghouse
 - grass prairie
 - existing kitchen facilities
 - electric power to the cabins
5. Add more activities and programs in “a plain environment that enriches the retreat.”

Group members: Noel Pavlovik, Neil Mesner, Cathy Garra, Judy Jager, Mariellen Gilpin, Chip Rorem

Development and Finance

There has been no action in this arena for quite a while. Nominating Committee has been asking for people to serve on a Development Committee with no success as yet. This plan suggests that we take a step back and think first about what our own culture of fundraising looks like.

1. Create a plan for funding our site plan. Prioritize action items and estimate the cost.
2. Identify key individuals to help frame the development plan without becoming a committee member.
3. Set a timeline for implementation.
4. Recruit people who will “do the asking.”

Group members: Maurine Pyle, Carol Bartles