

Ad hoc Committee for the Mills Property Report to 2010 Annual Sessions

At the 2009 annual sessions, the Finance Committee recommended the appointment of an ad hoc committee to “get to know” the new property. The committee was to include members from Clear Creek, Environmental Concerns, Finance, Maintenance and Planning, Site Envisioning and Development, and the Stewards. (See Minute 55) Membership of the committee includes: Dick Ashdown (Stewards), Carol Bartles (Stewards), David Finke (ILYM Clerk, ex officio), Chris Goode (Environmental Concerns), Margie Haworth Davis (Finance), Pam Kuhn (Finance), Neil Mesner (Maintenance and Planning), Tim Narkiewicz (Stewards), Chip Rorem (Site Envisioning and Development), and Beth Schobernd (Clear Creek).

The committee met three times during the past year – twice in person and once by conference call. The first thing we accomplished was to change our name to the ad hoc Committee for the Mills Property. We also created a more formal charge that was presented in our report to the 2009 fall Continuing Committee:

The Ad Hoc Committee for the Mills Property serves as a forum among and between The Environmental Concerns Committee, the Finance Committee, the Maintenance and Planning Committee, the Site Envisioning and Development Committee, the Illinois Yearly Meeting Stewards, and Clear Creek Monthly Meeting, gathering and sharing information as an aid to increasing transparency as we more fully integrate the Mills property into the yearly meeting.

Over the course of the past year, we have helped to determine and prioritize the work to be done at the new property in order to make the buildings and grounds safe and usable for Clear Creek Friends and for the 2010 yearly meeting gathering. The details of that work will be presented by Environmental Concerns, Maintenance and Planning and the Stewards. And true to our charge, we have served as a forum for sharing information among and between the various committees and groups who are working toward the goal of readying the property for use. We have found the latter exchanges extremely helpful, and believe we have made better decisions because of the regular interactions our representative committees have had.

At the January Visioning Workshop, Friends sensed the new property as an opportunity to build a year-round program of retreats and workshops. We recommended to spring Continuing Committee that Ministry and Advancement Committee develop such a program, and Continuing Committee concurred. Retreats and workshops can be created for a relatively small expense, with a large payoff in growing the Society of Friends in our region. In anticipation of the work of Ministry and Advancement Committee, our committee continues its efforts to refurbish the Clear Creek House of Illinois Yearly Meeting to serve as a

future retreat center. Looking beyond the immediate need of readying the house for such use, we look forward to working with SE&D and others in ILYM to develop the ILYM campus for retreats & workshops.

At the March Continuing Committee, we were asked to bring to annual sessions a recommendation for a name for the house on the new property. This request was precipitated by a request from Clear Creek Friends in search of an “official” name for the house to be used in describing their winter meeting space for their budding web site. After much consideration, **we recommend that the house be known as the Clear Creek House of Illinois Yearly Meeting to honor the generations of stewardship provided by the local meeting.**

Also at the 2010 spring Continuing Committee, we were asked “to bring to the yearly meeting recommendations for a policy for the use of the Mills house by yearly meeting committees and groups during the year from the 2010 annual sessions to the 2011 annual sessions.” While we have made significant progress in identifying issues for this policy, that work is not yet complete. We recognize that usage guidelines are an essential part of managing the new property and are intent on developing those as well as shepherding other remaining tasks necessary for the yearly meeting to make the best use of that purchase. To that end, **we recommend that our committee be continued for one additional year.** If the yearly meeting approves extending the service of the ad hoc committee, we suggest that the revised charge be:

The Ad Hoc Committee for the Mills Property focuses on finalizing preparations for readying the Clear Creek House for day use by yearly meeting committees and groups and ultimately for overnight use, while we continue to serve as a forum for sharing information among our representative committees and Clear Creek.

If the yearly meeting approves the extension of the Ad Hoc Committee for the Mills Property, the current representatives will work with their constituent groups to discern either the continuation of those representatives or replacement members.