

Lake Forest Friends Meeting  
Site Envisioning Query Response

On Sunday, January 16, twelve Friends gathered after Meeting for Worship at LFFM to discuss and offer feedback on the future of the property near McNabb, Illinois, that is owned by the yearly meeting. The group reviewed photographs and maps of the area prior to beginning its discussion. While no particular idea was brought to a sense of the meeting, the following observations were made:

Concerning LFFM specifically, we would like to get to know the site better, especially the newly-acquired property. However, we would be unlikely to contemplate holding a retreat at Clear Creek House in the current state of the site as a whole. Lack of sleeping facilities was the main reason expressed for this, although lack of a proper cooking and eating facility was also of concern. The fact that there is electricity in some of the newly-built cabins was mentioned, but this did not seem sufficient to support an LFFM retreat. Additionally, the distance of those cabins from Clear Creek House was an important issue for some.

Concerning ILYM more generally, those present agreed that increased use of the site would be desirable. Aside from retreats, meetings of ILYM meetings and perhaps other Quaker groups were mentioned as possibilities. However, concern was again expressed about the material improvements that would need to be made for that to become a realistic possibility and the costs that those improvements would incur. Among the concerns expressed were the following:

Will a new dormitory be built? If so, where will it be located?  
When and where will kitchen and dining facilities be built?  
Can a caretaker be engaged for the property at an affordable cost to ILYM?  
Can space for camping be expanded during the period of the year when it is desirable, including the ILYM annual sessions?  
Given the distance from almost all monthly meetings to the site, how can we encourage use of trains and car pooling to reduce our carbon footprint?

Submitted by David Shiner for the Wider Quaker World Committee of LFFM