

NORTHEASTERN CAVE CONSERVANCY, INC.

Minutes

March 10, 2013 10:00am Kerhonkson, NY

Meeting called to order at 10:10

1. Introduction and greetings – President Bob Addis
2. Attendance:
Officers: B. Addis, V. Kappler, B. Folsom, C. Hay
Trustees: M Chu, K. Dumont, T. Engel, A. Traino, M. Warner, P. Youngbaer, A. Hicks
3. Absent with Proxy:
 - Chuck Porter for Morgan Ingalls
 - Tom Rider for Woodell
4. President's Report – Bob Addis- Attachment A
5. Vice President's Report –Vince Kappler – Attachment B
6. Treasurer's Report –Bill Folsom - Attachment C
7. Secretary's Report – Christa Hay
 - Sent out letter to NCRC stating use of NCC preserves is granted
 - Status quo
 - February EC meeting minutes – Attachment D
8. Science Committee – Larry Davis
 - Here are some general comments and thoughts:
 - 1) First goal is always to protect the caves, critters, and properties with a related goal of protecting the "experience" of our visitors.
 - 2) We want to encourage research at whatever level. BUT in view of #1 (above)-it is important that lower level students (i.e. secondary school, Jr. College, even undergraduates) have supervision and that we know who the supervisor is. They don't have to go to the caves with the students, but they do need to be responsible for them and over seeing their activities.
 - 3) Property managers, I think, must approve of the projects. They should probably also be aware of when researchers are visiting the properties.
 - 4) "Small" projects are ones that might involve only 2-3 visits to the property, might have a duration measured in weeks or 2-3 months, are being carried out by high school or junior college students or classes, that have a very narrow scientific question that is being addressed and so on. These could be handled differently (see my answer to your questions below) then larger projects.
 - 5) The board and property managers need to help the science coordinator to do his/her job efficiently. One of the most important things that they can do along these lines is to direct any inquiries to the science coordinator immediately. That way he/she can assist the applicant in preparing materials.

I hope that this material helps the board in it's thinking. I would appreciate it if any proposed changes in our policy were run by me before they were voted on. I cannot attend the meeting on March 10 as I will be in Washington attending the semi-annual meeting of the Geological Society of America's Committee on Geology and Public Policy (of which I am a member).

Thanks for asking me. I am sorry it has taken me a while to work through this. I appreciate your patience.

If you or the board have questions, please forward them to me. I will be in a meeting myself while you are meeting, but I should be able to get an answer back to you within a few hours at the most.

More comments from email:

Vince comments: Research project applications and the length of time necessary for project approval were two discussion points that came up in the Committee of the Whole at the last NCC meeting. In short, board members are wondering if: 1) a proposal submitted by a high school or junior college student must be held to the same academic rigor as more advanced research work

Larry Answer: In the past (there have only been a couple of cases), the issue has not been "academic rigor" but more the need for a supervisor to "sign off" on the student (as per item #2 above). In one recent case, I responded right away to the student and told her that she needed to get something from her supervisor and it was several weeks before she did so. As a scientist, I do need to see a scientific question that is being posed. There has to be some purpose to collecting data. We're not looking for the Nobel Prize here, but rather a "so what?". What are you going to do with the data that you collect? Why do you want to know this? What problem

or question are you addressing? and so on. Perhaps the fact that I am a teacher and someone who cares deeply about the fact that the public does not, in general, understand what science is, who scientists are, and how science is done, I see this as an opportunity for outreach and a "teachable" moment that should not be ignored. So, what I am looking for is a "question", big or small along with a basic plan for gathering the data needed to answer it (which I must know in order to accomplish the overriding goal of protecting the properties).

Vince comment: and 2) is there latitude within our policy to streamline the application so that a student proposing a project for a semester class can get the necessary permissions in a timely manner.

Larry Answer: Yes-In order to do this we need to make a couple of changes in the approval process and we need to make sure that inquiries about research are handled in a consistent manner. Let me address these in turn. Right now the approval process requires the research coordinator to review the application in consultation with the property manager, board members, and anyone else that the coordinator thinks is appropriate. The coordinator then sends a recommendation to the board who then votes on it. For "small projects" (perhaps as determined by the coordinator and the property manager acting in concert) we could streamline this by removing the board approval from the mix and substituting board notification. Larger more "professional" projects would, of course, still need to go through the more rigorous process. Basically, my recommendation would be that the property manager and the coordinator can approve smaller projects acting together.

Another reason for delays has been how inquiries have been handled. Requests to do research could be directed to any board member or the science coordinator or a property manager. No matter what the scale is, they people inquiring should be directed to 1) the NECC web site where the research policies are outlined and 2) the scientific coordinator who will help them prepare their applications. In the past, some of the problems have been caused by incomplete applications (i.e. no supervisor no description of what is actually going to be done in the cave, etc.). These are necessary in order to be sure that the property is protected. If the coordinator and property managers are in on things from the start and if inquiries are directed to them immediately, then the process for all applicants (not just the "small" project people) will be shortened considerably.

9. Acquisitions Committee –Open
10. Bylaws Committee Report – Joe Levinson
 - Nothing to report
11. Publications/Publicity Committee Report - Christa Hay
 - Brochure – it has been decided that we will try to get some of the grant money to create a professional brochure.
12. Fundraising Committee – Open
13. Office Committee Report – Emily Davis / Mike Warner
 - Problems: closed for the month of Feb
 - Progress: caught up with mail this week
 - Plans: no planned closure of the office until July
14. Knox Cave Preserve Report –Emily Davis
 - Problems: The science team wanted to visit the cave this Friday. I have just returned from the cave and there is as much or more ice than I have ever seen. Photo will be available at the meeting. I will not be allowing them to return to the cave until the ice is gone in late April or May.
 - Progress: none as cave is closed
 - Plans: To check the ice again after we have a warm spell.
15. Onesquethaw Cave Preserve – Thom Engel
 - Eight (8) permits have been issued since the last meeting. Bob Addis reports that the end of the 1st crawl is now lacking in gravel and debris and that it more resembles the 1972 Palmer map.
16. Sellecks Karst Preserve – Alan Traino
 - Nothing to report
17. Clarksville Preserve – Mike Chu, Thom Engel, Chuck Porter
 - We plan to do some need repairs to the changing area in the spring. Also, the Gregory parcel still needs to have a clean-up. The last session concentrated on the immediate area around the Gregory entrance.
 - We would like to revisit issue of doing some plowing of the parking area during the winter. I have been thinking that if the area was plowed, there might be less of an issue with people parking in such a way to block access. If it were plowed, at least they'd see there is something back there. In the past the board has been reluctant to pay for plowing, but I think Clarksville is a different situation.
18. Bentleys Preserve Report - Jonah Spivak
 - Nothing to report

19. Ella Armstrong Preserve – Alan Traino

- Nothing to report

20. Merlins Cave Preserve – Morgan Ingalls

- Vince is moving along on the conservation easement stuff, he has MANY more details than I do.
- Everyone should look at the awesome map that John drafted! It was in the most recent NE Caver. Hopefully we'll get it printed and put it up on the kiosk this spring. John also plans to submit it to the Cartography salon at this years convention in PA.
- I'll be holding another leader training after the cave opens in May.
- There will be a number of trips to Merlins at the spring NRO (I will be unable to make it as my sister is graduating from college that weekend, but I'll make sure people lead trips).
- John and I were required to write a "forest management plan" for a class we took during the fall semester. We wrote a plan for the Merlins property that I'm attaching to this email (Beware! It's REALLY long!), we are in NO WAY suggesting the board approve this as an official forest management plan (personally, I would vote against it), it's just in case folks are interested in seeing it.
- Attended the NEBWG in Albany

21. Education Committee – Thom Engel

- No activity in this period. In the next 2 months, I will be participating in Earth Day at the Bethlehem Middle School and the STEM fair at Shenendehowa in Clifton Park. The former replaces the event that was held at the now closed Clarksville Elementary School.

22. Membership Committee – Peter Youngbaer

- Membership renewals were sent out twice during this quarter, the latest batch early February for those coming due before the end of March. In addition, I sent second renewal notices for anyone whose renewal date fell between Sept. 1 and Jan. 31. I don't know the results of these reminders, as the Office Committee has been away and hasn't sent a report since Jan. 6. I hope to have an update by meeting time.

The next renewal batch (for April and May) will go out shortly. One point that will be stressed is making sure the renewal comes in time for people to vote in the upcoming Trustee elections. That seemed to work well last year, and was coordinated between Bob Simmons, Mike Chu and myself in terms of getting up-to-the-last-minute renewals entered in time for Mike to have voter ID specific codes entered in the data base. Any of the latest batch that also haven't renewed will get the same reminder, as they did in their first renewal notice.

Thom Engel sent me a list of the group users, but only one out of some 95 had an email address. I've asked Christa for letterhead and envelopes so I can contact both them and the small number of snail mail only regular members for whom I can't send electronic notices. I think these groups are ripe for Institutional Membership, or at least a donation to help support the preserves they use.

In terms of others who have been members relatively recently and not renewed, or who were members a while ago and haven't renewed, I have two ideas that I'd like feedback on at the Board meeting.

For those whose memberships are more than six months expired, but less than a year, what do people think about offering a discount for the remainder of this year, on condition they renew at the same time for an additional year? I've found that a number of people resist paying to catch up - they skip a year, and then just pay to rejoin. We might entice a number of folks to pay a little guilt money, and then get a full year's timely renewal going forward.

For those whose memberships are more than a year expired, I've mentioned a "We've missed you" letter asking them to rejoin. I promised a list at the last meeting for Board members to look at and see if you know the person personally, and could offer any advice ("oh, they moved, died, divorced," or "that turkey, I'll yank his chain," etc. I would definitely appreciate your help, and will bring that list to the meeting (Note: will email to Trustees following the meeting).

Finally, the Central Connecticut Grotto responded to my request to visit a meeting and talk about the NCC. They took it a step further and organized a public talk on WNS that I'll be giving on March 9 at the Whitney Center in Hamden, CT. That'll be followed by a discussion with the CCG folks about the NCC and the benefits of membership. As I mentioned in an earlier report, I'm planning to get around to all the northeastern grottos and make a pitch for both grotto and individual membership. Anyway, I'd appreciate the input of other Board members on the question of offering a discount to help people get back in and caught up. Thank you.

23. Website Subcommittee – Mike Chu – no report

24. Legal Committee Report – Open

25. Special and Group Use Coordinators – Thom Engel

- Minimal activity during the period, though we are now starting to get requests for summer camps. Permits have been issued for Clarksville for boy scout groups and for some school groups. I did receive and have set aside dates for the NCRC this summer. Starting July 7, 2013

26. Financial and Investments Committee – Joe Levinson

- Nothing to report

27. Volunteer Value Committee – Vince Kappler

- Progress:**

VV totals for 2012: 1483.5 hours of work and 13,951 miles driven to/from projects for a total value of \$51,605.00. The below chart of Volunteer Value Stats shows that we are reasonably consistent in the hours members contribute to the NCC with the slight increases in yearly totals typically occurring when we acquire a new preserve.

VOLUNTEER VALUE STATS

	Hours	Miles	Dollar Value
2006	1389.5	20,862	\$29,955.00
2007	1571.5	14,607	\$35,542.00
2008	1680.5	14,143	\$36,926.00
2009	1440.5	10,442	\$39,564.00
2010	1234	10,949	\$42,211.00
2011	1546	14,118	\$54,684.00
2012	1483.5	13,951	\$51,605.00
			\$290,487.00 TOTAL

2013 VV totals to date: \$3975.00

Plans: I will send periodic VV reminders to the membership and monitor data collection.

Problems: None at this time

28. Nominating Committee – Bob Simmons

- Will be using web based voting form with help from Mike C.
- Looking for candidates . Terms up are Kevin Dumont, Paul Woodell, and Mike W

29. Ad hoc Committee – Surprise Cave – Bob

- Quiet over the winter
- DEC was suppose to count and collect data loggers. Was not able to go in this time though.

30. Ad hoc Committee- Tory's Cave – Bob Simmons

- Had meeting set but it needs to be reschedule with the new executive director.

31. Ad hoc Risk Management Committee - Bob Addis, Peter Youngbaer, Vince Kappler

- RD Millholland – created a sub formum on the cave chat for conservancies with topics. Peter sent out question on liability...he asked what are people doing. Peter knows that 7 people read the question but did not respond.

32. Mohawk River Basin Karst Ad hoc committee- Chuck Porter and Art Palmer- no report

33. Transmission pipeline karst Impact ad hoc committee – Thom Engel

- Thom went to Schoharie and looked at new proposed route. He has info on his computer to show the board.

34. Action Items (from previous meeting)

- Christa to find a display FLAG for and table skirt - Christa has been checking prices
- Science Projects – discussion on science policy procedure..needs tweaking. If there is a negative impact to caves, karts etc we should not allow but if we do not agree with a science project that should not automatically vote it down. We will send some concerns to Science Chair for his input and work on reworking the procedure.

- Conservation easement/ liability – Merlins – we had several questions concerning the easement and we are working on it. The board **did** vote to approve the conservation easement for Merlins. We wanted to talk to attorney about language in easement and also checking the timing for the easement as stated in our EC meeting in February 2012. Bob will talk with Vince and move forward. CLC know we passed the motion.

35. Addis moved to open the Committee of the Whole. The Vice President will preside. Items can be entered as new business.

2nd by Hay

Passed unanimously

- Merlins Conservation easement – Vince has been working to move this along. Draft of easement first given to us before the December 2011 meeting, Vince contacted Tony at CLC. Is he still interested and are terms negotiable. He responded yes. Vince sent in requests for changes. Issue dealt with what happens if the organization closes- who do they give the property to? Has to be a group that has the same mission statement.
Vince will work on wording again and send back to CLC. Moving forward.
- Constitution Gas Pipeline – one of the updated routes is now coming over Terrace Mt. Could effect LaSalles and trap Caves. We should help to advise to avoid karst and caves. Thom will write a letter to CGP to express concerns with location. Should we get status of “intervener” and talk to other landowners.
- Traino – Gregory entrance cleanup –due to hurricane we need a major cleanup. Engel has a permit to dispose of the garbage. Thom and Bob will talk to town about use of equipment – maybe a truck that can use to take garbage to dump.
- Engel – Clarksville – Snow Plowing – we should plow so cavers don’t park up the area around the restaurants and also the restartun cliental park up by the parking area and cavers can get in. Thom will look for a local person for a per visit plowing
- Engel – Collection of Speleothems – met Michael Griffiths – professor does paleo climate research by looking at speleothems – he will probably make a science proposal for him to conduct some research. Thom is letting us know as this could happen within the year. Board should do research to help make decision.
- Addis – Barton Hill Mine AI gave some background information. The issue of liability is a much greater issue on this property! Mines is not part of our mission. Need to check on what other possible contaminates could be on the property. Due to a straw vote we have decided NOT to have an ad hoc committee to further gather information on this project.
- Youngbaer – NCC newsletter – have a possible volunteer to take over the newsletter. Danny Brass writes CCG newsletter. And thanks to Mike Chu for his contributions

36. The Vice President moved to close the Committee of the Whole.

2nd by Folsom

Passed unanimously

37. Hay moved to accept the minutes of the December 12, 2012 meeting.

2nd by Folsom

For- rest Abstained - Hay

Passed

The following motion postponed from previous meeting - We have not received the Ad hoc committee recommendation so is still postponed

38. Addis moves \$10,000.00 be directed to the Rensselaer Land Trust (RLT) for a conservation easement to be held by RLT on the Bentley property. This will be paid in five equal annual installments of \$2,000.00 each, the first payment being due upon the acceptance of the conservation easement agreement by RLT. If requested, the NCC shall forward a copy of the survey and the walking right-of-way into the property.

2nd by Traino

Postponed from September 2011 meeting

Engel moved to postpone until Merlins conservation easement is completed and the recommendation of the ad hoc risk committee are given

2nd by Youngbaer

For- Rest Abstained Porter

Proposed Bylaw changes – these need to go to the Members before voting at next meeting. I sent out email right after meeting

39. Youngbaer moves that the Bylaws be amended in Article III Membership, Sec. 2. Categories of Membership, by adding a new subsection:

- g. Family Life: have all privileges of Family membership and may receive publications digitally when available. Family Life memberships are available to family members of a Life member joined by marriage or civil union, and to children of a Life member until the age of 18. Family Life members pay a onetime membership fee determined by

the Board. If the Life member dies, the Family Life member shall automatically be converted to regular Life membership. If the marriage or civil union is dissolved, the Family Life member may convert to full Life by paying the difference in dues amount currently in force.

and further moves that Act 23-1 be amended as follows

The annual membership dues are as follows:

Regular \$15
Family \$ 5
Student \$10
Benefactor \$50
Institutional \$100
Life \$300
Family Life \$100

The Life and Family Life Membership fee may be paid over three (3) years in equal installments in addition to paying the basic Regular or Family dues fee, respectively.

Discussion: While sending out the most recent batch of membership renewals and thank yous, one NCC member inquired if there was a Family Life membership option. I had to tell him we currently have such a thing.

However, we have a number of couples where one is a Regular member, the other Family. If the Regular member chose to become a Life member (\$300, or 20 x the annual membership fee), they would still have to continue paying an annual \$5 fee to continue the Family membership for their significant other or minor children. I can easily see where, simply as a matter of convenience, they would like to also make a one-time payment to have a Life Family member as well. If we did the same math (\$5 x 20), we'd have a fee of \$100 for this new category. The question then becomes what to do when the underlying Life member dies or the parties break up. It seems a nice gesture to transfer the full Life voting privileges to the survivor, plus, we already have the money. If the couple breaks up, the former Family Life member can simply pay the difference and become a Life member themselves (in this case, paying the additional \$200). But maybe they don't want to. They could alternatively simply join as a Regular member, or maybe they don't want to be a member at all. In either of those scenarios, I don't think it needs to be addressed in the Bylaws. So, I propose the bylaw and Act amendments for consideration.

SEND OUT TO MEMBERES BY ONLINE EMAIL ACCOUNT

40. Youngbaer moved we spend up to \$5000 for the cleanup of the Gregorey parcel.
2nd Traino

Amended :Youngbaer moved the Preserve Manager spend up to \$5000 for the cleanup of the Gregorey parcel.
2nd Warner
For: Rest, Against: Hay, Folsom, Hicks Abstain: Engel
Passed

41. Informational Point: Executive committee meeting will be May 14, 2013 at 7:00 pm. NCC Conference Call: 605-475-6111, Access Code: 814008

42. Addis moved that the next NCC Board meeting will be June 9th, 2013 at 10:00 am location to be determined..
2nd by Engel
For rest, Abstained - Rider
Passed

43. Addis moved to thanks Bill and Robin for hosting the meeting.
2nd by Dumont
Passed unanimously

44. Addis moved to adjourn.
2nd Chu
Passed Unanimously

Meeting adjourned at 1:58 pm

**Attachment A
President's Report**

1. **Conservation Easement with Columbia Land Conservancy** – The NCC is progressing forward. Initial talks have started with an attorney familiar with conservation easement, Lawrence Howard. Vice President Vince Kappler was able to pick up an additional work load and start these discussions. Mr. Howard professes working knowledge about the General Obligations law, Section 9-103, NYS's so-called Sportsman's Law for recreating on private property. With some discussions on the EC's part, the NCC will further explore our liability issue and address liability insurance. Reminder: the NCC purchased liability insurance a year ago and it will be up for renewal soon.
2. **NCC Retreat** – Some investigations have been going on for the Board and as many Committee heads as desire to participate in an off-site 1-2 day session to think and plan about the future of the NCC. Frankly we are slow in selecting a professional facilitator and to a lesser extent, finding a meeting place. Bob Simmons has a generic website but it needs to be vetted. We will discuss this at the upcoming Committee Of The Whole to see if the NCC really wants this and to get some more assistance in preparing for it.
3. **Barton Hill Mine, Mineville, Essex County, NY -** I was invited to the 1/10/13 NE Bat Working Group Seminar to welcome attendees since the NCC was hosting it and had members there. I was approached by John Fishman, consultant for a developer in downstate Ulster (?) County and by DEC's Carl Herzog and Al Hicks, DEC retired. John Fishman's client was proposing a development which would destroy a small bat hibernaculum downstate and had discovered that a major bat hibernaculum in the Adirondacks was up for sale. If the developer were to purchase it and donate it to an organization that would protect the bat hibernaculum, it would be viewed as mitigation by the DEC and the developer's project would be approved on this issue at least. Neither DEC nor The Nature Conservancy will accept it so naturally it came down to asking the NCC. The Adirondack Conservancy has initially turned it down as well, but Al Hicks believes they may reconsider.

The Barton Hill Mine is a large abandoned iron mine dating back into the 1700's and said to have been a major source of iron of high quality. There was an entire economy built around the mine including a company town which has reverted to private ownership of the houses. It has several entrances -8?- of which two are on the two parcels being offered. Al Hicks believes these two entrances are the main ones to get in the mine, the others being quite dangerous slippery slopes and pits. The two parcels total to approximately 50 acres and there is a question of how much is over the mine, i.e. how much mine would be owned. Hopefully a copy of the mine map will be available for viewing at our 3/10 meeting and it might have the tax map overlay to start to answer that question. A title search by the developer indicates that all mineral rights – the mine – go with the surface property, thus answering an earlier concern if a new owner would be permitted to go into "their" mine. DEC early in its bat survey program discovered the importance of the Barton Hill Mine as a major bat hibernaculum – See Al's comments below. They have been going there for many years and I believe that Al Hicks is our only Board member to have visited the site. If the NCC continues a study on this, Al has offered to lead a trip there, more to concentrate on the surface features.

I believe that I am correct in saying, and we will ask Al, that there is no management plan for the hibernaculum under present ownership.

As President, it is my intention to discuss this at the Committee Of The Whole during Sunday's meeting and ask for a straw vote whether the President should establish an ad hoc committee to study this issue. I will bow to the wishes of the Board and not establish an ad hoc committee if they vote so.

Following is the President's Pro vs. Con list – You might be able to do better!

- | <u>PRO</u> | <u>CON</u> |
|--|--|
| - This is a major hibernaculum and the NCC has an obligation to help. | - This is a mine and against the NCC Mission Statement. |
| - No mine tailings on the offered land. Essex Co. Hiway gets sand & gravel across the road, not on this land | - Old mine pollution is a major issue. |
| - This will strengthen our partnership with DEC. | - Dangers & liability of a mine perhaps not covered by Sportsman's Law or liability insurance. |
| - Mineral rights go with the land. | - Could require gating. Could the NCC find funding? Developer will help. |
| - Expands the NCC – volunteers: ADK, Plattsburgh St. Outing Club, TNC, Appalachian Mtn, Club, CASQUE in Montreal | - Too far from core of volunteers. |
| | - Multiple entrances = poor control |
| | - Dilemma: allow caving? |

Following is Al Hicks' comments on my questions reprinted with his permission:

I have addressed your questions below in CAPS:

I respect your professional opinions and I also respect your service on the NCC Board, so now I ask you - should the NCC own the Barton Hill Mine IT DEPENDS ON THE LIABILITY ISSUE FOR BOTH THE MINE AND THE ASSOCIATED RESERVOIR (WHICH I ASSUME IS ON THE PROPERTY). IF THE MINE IS NOT COVERED UNDER

THE SAME LIABILITY LAWS AS THE CAVES, (AND I DOUBT THAT IT IS), THEN I BELIEVE WE SHOULD STAY AWAY FROM IT. ONE OF THE TWO ENTRANCES ON THE PROPERTY WOULD BE CERTAIN DEATH FOR ANYONE THAT FELL IN DURING THE WINTER (LONG, STEEP ICE SLOPE TO A WALL. THE PASSABLE ENTRANCE ENDS IN A 6 FT DROP TO A JUMBLE OF ICE COVERED ROCKS AT THE BOTTOM. Board sort that out if the answer is favorable.

Was it and is it still an important bat hibernaculum? THIS YEAR'S COUNTS ARE STILL BEING PROCESSED. I SUSPECT THAT IT WILL BE ONE OF THE TWO OR THREE LARGEST REMAINING WINTER COLONIES IN THE NORTHEAST, BUT PROBABLY STILL DECLINING IF ONLY SLIGHTLY.

Is there notable usage and/or vandalism occurring over the years you have been going there? I AM SURE THAT LOCAL KIDS VISIT THE MINES BUT THERE IS NOT A GREAT DEAL OF VANDALISM.

Do you have any sense how the locals feel about the mine? NO

Obviously it was a major employer years ago. YES Is there company-supplied housing which is in current use, probably privately owned? YES , THE ENTIRE TOWN WAS A COMPANY TOWN.

Does the Essex County Highway Department still get sand and gravel from there? I AM NOT SURE IF THEY DO OR NOT- WAS THE GRAVEL ON THE PROPERTY?. This was listed in a reference online. John Fishman said the County got sand & gravel across the road.

This is a start of questioning directed towards you. Site visit -should we wait until May because of the bats or may we go earlier? IT SEEMS UNLIKELY THAT THE PROPERTY IN QUESTION INCLUDES MUCH MORE THAN THE ENTRANCES THEMSELVES (I AM NOT SURE OF WHERE THE PROPERTY LINES ARE). THERE WOULD NOT BE A GREAT DEAL OF BENEFIT TO WANDERING THE MINE , OTHER THAN GENERAL INFORMATION.

Obviously we could go up and tramp around the land if the realtor representing the sales allows access. I have the contact number which we should use.

So the question is: Can the NCC take on the mine in some fashion and do a better job of management?

Attachment B Vice President's Report

NCC Manual

The NCC Manual was updated per actions taken at the December meeting and the revised manual was sent to Mike C. to be posted on the web site.

Merlins Conservation Easement

In early December, I contacted Tony Colyer-Pendas, Director of Conservation Programs, Columbia Land Conservancy to initiate a conversation about the stalled Merlins Conservation Easement. CLC is still very interested in partnering with the NCC and offered to review our concerns and possibly rework the contract language. After several email exchanges, CLC proposed revisions to the original conservation easement sections on (1) the prohibitions against surface and subsurface excavations and (2) altering natural waterways. The revisions will allow traditional caving activities pursuant to the management plan. CLC also agreed to permit trail maintenance and hazardous tree and deadfall removal without filing for a Forest Management Plan which required input from certified foresters and any work must be performed by certified equipment operators.

The original conservation easement still contains some areas of concern to us: (1) assignment of the easement to another conservancy, and (2) remediating "conditions deemed dangerous to the public". CLC indicated that these clauses are typical to CEs and not reason for concern. However, I have requested clearer language to ensure that the easement could not be assigned to a conservancy that does not wholeheartedly support traditional caver activities and verification that karst features would never be declared "dangerous to the public" and require remediation. The final CLC proposal will be reviewed by an attorney to insure that our interests are preserved.

In my email exchanges with CLC, I brought up liability protection and asked several questions within the context of CLC being a partner to the conditions and activities associated with the preserve. Tony side-stepped the topic but stated "I strongly recommend that NCC carry additional liability insurance". It appears that our ongoing concerns about liability may not be negated by entering into CEs.

On March 6, I had my first email exchange and phone conference with Lawrence Howard, Esq., of Blueberry Ridge Stewardship Services. I provided an overview of the CLC conservation easement and some of our concerns. Mr. Howard expected to be able to review the materials I sent and provide some initial feedback, possibly before Sunday's meeting.

EC Meeting

I participated in the EC phone meeting held on February 20.

**Attachment C
Treasurer's Report**

Balance Sheet

As of March 1, 2013

	<u>Mar 1, 13</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Checking	2,148.54
Money Market	16,069.30
NSF Account	46,106.07
Total Checking/Savings	<u>64,323.91</u>
Total Current Assets	64,323.91

Application for tax-exemption on the Merlin's property was submitted to the Town of Canaan prior to the 3/1/13 deadline.

Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual

03/01/2013

January 1 through March 1, 2013

	<u>Jan 1 - Mar 1, 13</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
Donations		
Auction Donations	0.00	1,000.00
Donations - Other	709.39	4,000.00
Total Donations	709.39	5,000.00
Interest Earned	0.71	5.00
Membership Income	175.00	5,200.00
Total Income	885.10	10,205.00
Expense		
Acquisitions	0.00	500.00
Bank Charges	0.00	20.00
Development	0.00	1,000.00
Donations-outgoing	0.00	200.00
Easements	0.00	1,500.00
Education	0.00	100.00
Executive		
President	0.00	150.00
Secretary	0.00	75.00
Treasurer	0.00	275.00
VP	0.00	75.00
Total Executive	0.00	575.00
Insurance	0.00	1,100.00
Legal Fees	0.00	2,000.00
Licenses & Permits	0.00	150.00
Meeting Expense	0.00	100.00

Membership Expenses	0.00	100.00
Miscellaneous	0.00	100.00
Office Expense	0.00	100.00
Postage	0.00	100.00
Preserves-Maintenance		
Bentleys	0.00	100.00
Clarksville	0.00	300.00
Ella Armstrong	0.00	100.00
Knox	0.00	100.00
Merlins	0.00	100.00
Onesquethaw	0.00	100.00
Sellecks	0.00	100.00
Total Preserves-Maintenance	<u>0.00</u>	<u>900.00</u>
Printing	0.00	100.00
Promotion/Fundraising	0.00	800.00
Mailings	0.00	100.00
Website	0.00	60.00
Sponsorships	0.00	500.00
Taxes on Properties	649.55	100.00
Total Expense	<u>649.55</u>	<u>10,205.00</u>
Net Ordinary Income	235.55	0.00
Other Income/Expense		
Other Income		
In Kind donations	0.00	0.00
Volunteer Value	0.00	0.00
Total Other Income	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Other Expense		
In Kind Out	0.00	0.00
Volunteer Value Exp	0.00	0.00
Total Other Expense	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Net Other Income	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Net Income	<u>235.55</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Net Gain or Loss from NSF Fund	-64.64	
NET Income after NSF Fund Gain/Loss	<u>170.91</u>	

Attachment D

EC Meeting
02/20/2013
Conference Call

Conference call: Bob, Bill, Vince, Christa, Paul W.

Barton Hill Mines – thoughts on what we should do. It is not in our mission statement but could offer our management services. Bob to email Mike Fishman about mineral rights.

Skull Hole Update – Bob has talked to both parties. Not sure if we can get Skull but we might be able to subdivide Kens Kave out. Will wait to hear from Fortuins

Retreat – we need to find a facilitator and work out cost. Bob Simmons has sent costs for a retreat in CT. Bob has prices for Martha Vineyards. Vince – can we ask for \$1000 for education/training on the PMG grant. Christa will ask Peter about putting in for grant and if he knows facilitators. Bob to ask Bob Simmons to check on the conference to see if they have a list of facilitators.

Research Policy – changes ? Vince sent email to Larry Davis to help address the issues of responding in a timely manner. No response as of today. Vince will ask to make sure he has something for his report for the upcoming meeting.

Merlins conservation easement – back in December Vince had several conversations with Tony of CCG. They highly recommend liability insurance. Vince will ask CCG to revise the easement based on last email from CCG. Vince will bring up in the meeting that CCG has gotten back to us and then get back to CCG

Pipeline –Bob will check with Thom and also talk to Mike and Emily about the issue with the pipeline.

Board meeting – Bill will not be able to host the meeting due to family obligations. Meeting can be moved to the 10th in Kerhonkson (daylight savings) or keep it the 3rd and move the place.

Tax exempt paperwork for Merlins has been set to the town of Caanan.