

NORTHEASTERN CAVE CONSERVANCY, INC.

Minutes

Submitted by Christa Hay

3/15/03 – CT Male Offices, Latham, NY – 1:00 PM

Meeting called to order at 1:10PM

1. Introduction and greetings – President Bob Addis
2. Attendance:
Officers: B. Addis, B. Folsom (arrived 2:20), C. Hay, J. Levinson
Trustees: J. Allison, C. Cantello, V. Kappler, A. Lehmann, E. Lucas, S. McLuckie, P. Murphy, T. Rider.
3. Absent without proxy: M. Warner
 - a. Board voted and appointed Mike Chu proxy for Mike Warner
4. President's Report – Bob Addis – Attachment A. (found at end of document)
5. Vice President's Report – Bill Folsom - oral. (reported after no. 16)
 - NRO is the primary focus. Contract for NRO came for signature and states that we need liability insurance, first time hearing about this- will check with other grottos that held NRO's in the past at the fairgrounds. Lining up door prizes.
 - Rebbecca Okongwu \$2,000 donation request - have contacted several times with what that dollar amount would buy in electronic equipment (BCI gave us items we could buy/need) but she has not gotten back to us.
6. Treasurer's Report – Joe Levinson – Attachment B.
7. Secretary's Report – Christa Hay - oral.
 - Requested the need for volunteers for NRO registration, received pricing on NRO t-shirts and mugs, waiting on logo to send to printers.
 - Ordered and received 200 NCC carabiners.
 - CT Male meeting arrangements.
 - Emily Davis will help organize steward training for Clarksville.
8. Acquisitions Committee Report – Chuck Porter- oral.
 - Porter and Addis spoke with owners of Clarksville and they turned down the first offer, they would like to keep some of the property and would like to see a flagged boundary, too much snow to get out there, Porter will survey as soon as weather cooperates and then approach owners again.
 - South Bethlehem- they want us to have \$2 million in liability insurance.
 - Ella Armstrong - still for sale, concentrating on Clarksville property.
 - Much discussion on Clarksville purchase at this time
 - Lehmann- checked on subdivisions in Albany county - spoke with the Town of New Scotland Building inspector -as long as we have 50 foot road frontage he can issue the subdivision approval - need to verify this - we would want to see this in writing.
 - Allison - the status of the parcel with Gregory entrance - it is in a conservation committee right now - they think it will go to Albany County Land Conservancy - he cannot get a hold of anyone at ACLC also found out that the fire company asked for the land and was told no.
9. Knox Cave Preserve Report – Emily Davis - no report.
10. Onesquethaw Cave Preserve Report – Thom Engel - no report.

11. Sellecks Karst Preserve Report - Jon Allison - oral.
 - There has been some visitation of the preserve over the winter.
12. Publications Committee Report – Christa Hay - oral.
 - Newsletter mailed out, added renewal forms for the members that need to renew.
 - Looking into electronic mailing of newsletters to reduce cost.
 - Tom Rider is searching for replacement for editor of newsletter.
 - Emily Davis gave idea to write up a article now on Clarksville so it will be ready for publication in NSS News when the offer to purchase is accepted.
13. Website Subcommittee Report – Norm Berg - oral.
 - Continue working on website.
 - Want to add photos, property write ups.
 - Melanie Peterson has offered her assistance with the website.
 - Who has supervisory access to the Yahoo site? - need to be able to delete any possible inappropriate messages that might have been sent.
14. Office Committee Report – Emily Davis/Mike Warner - no report.
15. Land Trust Liaison Committee Report – Mike Warner - no report.
 - *Need to check on the conservation easements on Sellecks and Knox properties*
16. Fund Raising Committee Report – Alan Traino
 - Working on NSS conservation grant application.
 - Application for 2004 Halloween at Howes has been submitted.
 - NRO - checking on corporation donations.
 - Need to work with conservancy and animal (bats) groups.
17. Legal Committee Report – Dan Werner - no report.
18. Addis moved to open the Committee of the Whole. The Vice President will preside.
 2nd by Folsom
Passed unanimously
 - a. Cantello - what will be layout at NRO - NCC booth will be at NRO inside building.
 - b. Kappler - should establish protocol (promissory note) for the lending/payback of money for future purchases. Treasurer to look into this.
 - c. Schohaire Preserve clean up - will setup for a Saturday.
 - d. Kappler - what is going on with Schoharie cleanup? Joe Armstrong will start checking into garbage pickup days and best way to handle the cleanup - large items to be picked up.
 - e. Onesquethaw - changing area workday at NRO (if weather is good).
 - f. Design a "poster" for NCC - Mike Chu will forward digital photos to Christa Hay and Norm Berg.
 - g. Lucas - vendors at NRO - Inner Mt Sports might be available to come.
 - h. Allison - cave maps on website - main issue is copywrite, will have author sign letter and state on webiste that it is copywrite material.
 - i. Cantello - should we have a policy for future products that we sell - ex. Poster with photo taken by member - do they get \$\$ for this? - this would have to done on a case by case basis.
 - j. Rider - will head Ad-hoc committee for Earth Days at Howe Caverns.
 - k. McLuckie - status of NCC promotional supplies. t-shirts, lanyards, stickers, carabiners - Hay to check on numbers.
 - l. Folsom/Porter - need to have several projects going at once since it could take years for one to be completed.
 - m. Acquisitions -Traino - what is the focus of NRO - Clarksville - hopefully have a firm offer by then.
 - n. Folsom - item by item on proposed Clarksville management plan to get general opinion - discussion and straw vote on items - Lucas to speak with Thom Engel.
 - o. Allison / Chu - have volunteered to edit the NCC newsletter.

19. Folsom moved to close the Committee of the Whole. Items from this meeting will be introduced as new business.
2nd by McLuckie
Passed unanimously
20. Hay moved to approve the minutes of the December 08, 2002 meeting.
2nd by Cantello
Passed unanimously
21. Kappler moved the NCC will reimburse the \$40 registration fee for _____ to attend the Fundraising Training Workshop scheduled for Wednesday, August 6, 2003 at the NSS Convention. The recipient shall make a presentation to the NCC Board of Trustees at the fall meeting.
2nd by McLuckie
Levinson moved to postpone until next meeting.
2nd by McLuckie
Passed all (Folsom absent)
22. Folsom moved Joe Armstrong be appointed Chairman of the Conservation Committee.
2nd by Levinson
Passed unanimously
23. Addis moved that the Acquisitions Committee will negotiate a purchase price up to \$15,000. For the Ella Armstrong property and report to the Board.
2nd by Folsom
Passed unanimously
24. Addis moved that the Officers will conduct an Executive Committee meeting on April 27, 2003 at 10:00 AM at Howe Caverns. NCC Members are encouraged to attend.
2nd by Levinson
Passed unanimously
25. Addis moved that the next NCC Board meeting will be held on May 31 at 4:00PM Schoharie Cabin. Cleanup organized by J. Armstrong from 10:00 - 4:00.
2nd by Levinson
Passed unanimously
26. Addis moved to adjourn.
2nd by Lehmann
Passed unanimously

Meeting adjourned at 5:02 PM.

Attachment A

PRESIDENT'S REPORT **NCC BOARD MEETING – 3/15/03**

Winter has been apparently quiet for the activities of the NCC, although forward progress has been made on the purchase of Clarksville Cave. This will be reported by the Acquisitions Committee and included in the final minutes.

Several items have centered around Howe Caverns.

1. The NCC has been asked to have a booth at their Earth Days, Sat. & Sun., April 26 & 27. This is a chance to educate the public (that's not a nice way to say it!) on the importance of groundwater in a karst region and Howe Caverns' part in it. This should motivate us to renew our exhibits and slant it towards the Rt. 20 – Howe drainage corridor. Also, we will need VOLUNTEERS to man the booth that weekend.
2. Dovetailing into Earth Day, Howe has asked the NCC to "supply a panel" for their newly remodeled museum in the Lodge. They are doing over the older museum that was in the corridor to the holding room for departing caverns tours, and professionals are doing the remodeling. We don't have details yet, although suggestions from Howe's management indicate a preference for aerial views of the Rt. 20 to Howe drainage.
3. Howe is excited about the NCC hosting the National Cave Management Conference in the fall of 2005.
4. Work continues on the other end of the cave – the Howes Cave Quarry. Restoration is under way for the Cave House and related features. The NCC should keep a presence in that project.

2003, after a severe winter and heavy snowfalls, promises to be an interesting year for the NCC! Thank you for your participation in the past and in the future.

Bob Addis

Attachment B
Treasurers Report
For
The Northeastern Cave Conservancy, Inc.
15-Mar-03

As of 10-Mar-03 we have \$14,204.98 in our bank account. We currently have 124 paid members. We received \$1050.19 from the past NSS convention as a donation of their remaining stipend. In addition, at the last accounting, we had assets around \$12,000 being held by the National Speleological Foundation. In addition the papers have been filed to remove the Sellecks preserve from the tax rolls, and we are waiting to hear the ruling.

Respectively submitted,

Joe E. Levinson