

THE NORTHEASTERN CAVE CONSERVANCY, INC.
Board Meeting
Minutes for 03/24/2001
Howe Caverns Restaurant -10:00am

Meeting called to order at 10:00

1. Introduction and greetings – President Bob Addis

2. Attendance:
Executive Officers: B. Addis, B. Folsom, C. Hay, J. Levinson
Trustees: C. Cantello, V. Kappler, T. Rider, McLuckie entered meeting at 10:15
Guests: Paul Murphy – Town of Carlisle Planning Board and karst landowner.
Al Layman – Town of Carlisle Chairman of Planning Board and interested in karst.

3. Absent without proxy: M. Warner, K. O'Classen
The board seated the following for proxy at 11:15
M. Warner- proxy was B. Miller
K. O'Classen- proxy was P. Murphy

4. There was an informal vote of the members whether to hold the Committee of the Whole now or after the individual reports. Members voted on reports first.

5. President's Report – Bob Addis – written – attachment A (found at end of document)

6. Vice President's Report – Bill Folsom – oral
 - a. Purgatory Pit – Folsom contacted Peter Quick and management
 - b. Folsom has asked D. Werner to try to contact the Dean of Vermont Law School- no report from Werner; Folsom has also sent electronic mail to the Dean – no response.

7. Treasurer's Report – Joe Levinson – written – attachment B

8. Secretary's Report – Christa Hay – no report

9. Acquisitions Committee Report – Chuck Porter- written – attachment C

10. Knox Cave Preserve Report – Emily Davis – attachment D

11. Onesquethaw Cave Preserve Report – Thom Engel – oral
 - a. Western Mass. Cavers have taken 7 bags of garbage out of the cave over 3 trips
 - b. Neighbor has built garage so he does not need to cross property
 - c. Conversation with Grange brothers – they farm the land and have been paying rent to the neighbors and did not realize that the neighbors did not own the entire property. There is approximately ½ acre of the land belongs to the Albany County Land Conservancy.

12. Publications Committee Report – Kevin O'Classen– no report

13. Website Subcommittee Report – Bill Folsom – oral
 - a. The updated membership list is on the web and is not password protected.
 - b. Onesquethaw and Knox Cave management plans are on website.

14. Office Committee Report – Mike Warner – written – attachment E

15. Land Trust Liaison Committee Report – Mike Warner – no report

16. Legal Committee Report – Dan Werner - no report

17. Addis moved to open the Committee of the Whole. The Vice President will preside.
2nd by Levinson
Passed unanimously
 - a. Engel – will respond to all comments sent in on the Knox Cave Management Plan
 - b. Engel - there is a misunderstanding of the purpose of management plans. The NCC board should first pass the management plan as an appendix, and then amend as needed. The manager of the property should only have to look at the management plan not have to look at the board manual to find acts.
 - c. Engel- would like to transfer responsibility of management plans to someone else. Ed Lucas has volunteered to assist.
 - d. Cantello – asked members if anyone would like to become a trustee as positions are open at next meeting. Three (3) open positions for 3 years plus one (1) new position for 2 years.
 - e. Murphy – what do other communities do for karst and cave safety.
 - f. Martuscello – how is McFail's management plan written for technical ability – T. Rider will check.
 - g. Douglas – financial questions on why not use the money we have as opposed to borrowing – answer: The money kept with the National Speleological Foundation (NSF) will continue to accrue interest and the NSF gives us a very favorable loan rate.

18. The Vice President moved to close the Committee of the Whole. Items from this meeting will be introduced as new business.
2nd by McLuckie
Passed unanimously

19. The minutes of the December 2, 2000 meeting were amended on # 28 to read " M. Warner moved..."
Hay moved to pass the minutes as amended.
2nd by Kappler
Passed unanimously
20. Levinson moved to accept the _____ plan
for credit card acceptance services.
2nd by McLuckie
Levinson deferred to Addis
- Levinson moved to amend the motion to read that Addis investigate what the SCCI has and present this to the Board by April 16 for an electronic vote. Voting to be concluded by April 30.
2nd by Cantello
Vote to amend: Passed unanimously
- Miller moved to amend the amendment to read that Addis investigate what the SCCI has and present this to the Board by April 16 for an electronic vote. Security and liability issues to be addressed by each plan. Voting to be concluded by April 30.
2nd by Folsom
Vote for motion as amended: Passed unanimously
21. Addis moved to accept the Knox Cave Preserve Management Plan as attached.
2nd by Folsom
Levinson moved to postpone until June meeting
2nd by Folsom
Passed unanimously
22. Hay moved to pay Brooks Barbeque a \$200.00 deposit for the October 26, 2001 BBQ fund raiser.
2nd by Levinson
For – Rest; Against – None; Abstained – Miller
23. Addis moved the name of the proposed cave preserve containing Selleck's, Levy's, Cave 575, Natural Bridge and other karst features be the Sellecks Karst Preserve.
2nd by Folsom
Folsom moved to postpone
2nd by Levinson
Passed unanimously
24. Levinson moved that the Treasurer prepare a financial plan for the proposed Sellecks Karst Preserve purchase for approval at the June, 2001 Board meeting. This plan should include repayment, closing costs including survey if necessary by local ordinance, initial capital improvements, ongoing maintenance, and the Treasurer may seek the assistance of related committees to complete this plan.
2nd by Cantello
For – Rest; Against – None; Abstained – Levinson

25. Addis moved The Northeastern Cave Conservancy, Inc. purchase the property known as the Sellecks Karst Preserve from William and Debra Ward for \$10,000.00. The Acquisitions Committee believes at this time the parcel to be approximately 15 acres, and includes deeded access to Kniskern Road.
2nd by Folsom
Levinson moved to postpone until June 2001 meeting
2nd by McLuckie
Passed unanimously

26. McLuckie moved that the NCC proceed with negotiations including the preparation of a purchase contract for the Ward property.
2nd by Murphy
Passed unanimously

27. Folsom moved that the NCC sponsor the Saturday night dinner at the Spring 2001 NRO.
2nd by Rider
Passed unanimously

28. Folsom moved that the NCC join the BZ Foundation.
2nd by McLuckie
Passed unanimously

29. Addis moved that the Officers will conduct an Executive Committee meeting on April 14 at 10:00 at Speleobooks. NCC Members are encouraged to attend.
2nd by Levinson
For – Rest; Against – Cantello; Abstained – Rider
(Later changed to April 15, 2001 at 11:00)

30. Addis moved that the next NCC Board meeting will be held on June 2, 2001 at the Five Rivers Environmental Center at 10:00am.
2nd by Levinson
For – Rest; Against- None; Abstained – Miller

31. Addis moved that Howe Caverns be thanked for their generous donation of facilities.
2nd by Hay
Passed unanimously

32. Addis moved to adjourn.
2nd by Levinson
Passed unanimously

Meeting adjourned at 1:00

Attachment A

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

3/24/01

1. Once again, my efforts with the Acquisitions Committee have both occupied most of my time and been rewarding – See Chuck's report. It looks good for the purchase of the Sellecks Karst Preserve this year, and in 1-4 years, Church & Wagon Wheel. Mary Ann Woodell, Paul's mother, continues with beneficial public relations with Pat Walker, the owner of Church & Wagon Wheel.
2. Christa Hay did the research on the Electronic Funds Transfer Corporation recently and I bring back from the December, 2000 meeting my notes on Northern Merchant Services to give the Board choices on plans for the NCC to accept credit cards. If we can select one at this meeting, then fund raising can begin in earnest this summer for the Sellecks project. Perhaps this can start at the Spring NRO.
3. I received a call from Paul Murphy inquiring about the NCC and its programs. He is on the Planning Board fro the Town of Carlisle and has connections with the county board as well. I mailed him a copy of our newsletter and brochure, as well as inviting him to today's meeting. Please make him feel welcome.
4. Beaver Camp Child Summer Camp would like to come and cave this summer. The one issue to check on is that they have to have insurance.

Attachment B
Treasurers Report
For
The Northeast Cave Conservancy, Inc.
24-Mar-01

As of Mar. 2001 we have \$4292.11 in our bank account. We also have assets in excess of \$8120.00 being held by the National Speleological Foundation in their general fund. Roger McClure, President of the NSF does have the signed contract, and it will be put before their board the weekend of April 7th. I am currently working out how to raise \$10,000.00 for the potential purchase of the Wards property. We can borrow/ have a mortgage on the property through the NSF for up to half the money we have on deposit with them. I am also getting some grant forms from them for the acquisition. I am also soliciting other people to make donations towards the purchase. I have spoken with the tax assessor for the town of Knox, and she sees no problem with the Knox Cave Preserve being tax free. We should have written notification of this sometime in May.

Respectively submitted,

Joe E. Levinson

Attachment C

Cave Acquisition Committee Report for 24 March 2001 NCC Meeting

Since the last meeting, significant progress has been made on acquiring the Wards property, our overtures towards Carlisle Ice Cave have been rebuffed, negotiations for Church and Wagon Wheel caves are in the initial stage, and we are still waiting for word on South Bethlehem Cave and the Purgatory karst.

The NCC's Executive Committee has offered owners Bill and Debra Ward \$10,000 for an approximately 15 acre parcel which would include Sellecks Cave, Cave 575, Natural Bridge, and probably Levys Cave. This parcel, outlined at the previous NCC meeting, includes the northwest part of Wards' land and a 50-foot wide deeded property (NOT a right-of-way) along their north property line to a public road. Depending on survey results, Levys Cave may or may not lie within this parcel. According to Bob, the Wards sounded enthusiastic about this offer, but must get approval from their creditor, a local bank.

After learning, from the NCC, about Carlisle Ice Cave on their property, the new owners dug open an entrance with a backhoe, leading to 50 feet of tight passage which according to Tony Hopkins ends most unpromisingly. Tony thinks this is not the Ice Cave itself. In any case, the owners seem interested in their new cave and now do not wish to sell to the NCC. Perhaps they will change their minds when the novelty has worn off.

Bob Addis has been in contact with the owner of Church and Wagon Wheel caves, west of Thatcher Park. She is interested in selling her parents' lands, including a house, the caves, and other lands. She felt that the cave properties could easily be sold off separately as a roughly 7-acre parcel. We plan to conduct a preliminary surface survey soon.

Callanan Industries, owner of South Bethlehem Cave in Albany County, still have our leasing proposal on their back burner. Walter Young, a former Callanan employee and NCC member, is keeping in touch with Callanan so that the fire doesn't die out totally. There is little we can do but keep after Callanan, which needs to have their lawyers review the lease agreement for possible liability consequences.

Similarly, we are waiting for the wheels to turn within OMYA, the multinational corporation that owns the Purgatory karst in Vermont. Management in the Proctor, Vt. office of OMYA is interested in providing caver access but approval must come from higher up. Peter Quick is helping the NCC with this, having had former contact with the Proctor officials.

On a related note, the Barrack Zourie Foundation has contacted the Florida owner of the Barn entrance of BZ and she seems interested in working out some kind of arrangement with cavers. I suggest we let the BZ Foundation continue these negotiations, and stand ready to assist them if necessary.

Chuck Porter

Attachment D

Knox Cave Report
3/24/01

All has been fairly quiet since the last meeting as the cave has been closed. We have had one report of people on the land by Ken Fortuin who lives near by. They were gone by the time someone went to check on them.

I differ in my opinion of two changes in the management of Knox from Thom's plan. I think the requirement for a belay on the ladder should be softened. My suggestion is to require belay below a certain height or a lower age (12 and under?)

I also feel that we do not need to gate the gunbarrel bypass. I went back and forth through this several times last year and the area just after the bypass is low enough to stop many from going any further. I do not feel there will be masses of people going up the great divide because of this change. I also feel that any rope or aid on the great divide will only attract people not prevent accidents.

Emily Davis

Attachment E

Office Committee Report
3/24/01

We have one membership we have not entered or deposited at this time; Rod Pingree, Regular.

We received a very nice letter and check from the Philadelphia Grotto from the "cave bucks" program. The check is for \$71.00 and has not been deposited yet. We will send a thank you letter when we return from our next business trip.

A review of the database finds the following members totals listed:

Regular Member 59
Family 4
Student 1
Benefactor 11
Institutional 8

Total 83

Of these only 6 are currently due. We will send out dues notices to folks after this business trip.

Emily Davis
Mike Warner