

**NORTHEASTERN CAVE CONSERVANCY, INC.**

**Minutes**

September 13, 2015, 10:00 AM Gallupville, NY

Management Plan Review Schedule

March 2015 Bentleys

June 2015 Clarksville

**September 2015 Ella Armstrong**

December 2015 Knox

March 2016 Merlins

June 2016 Onesquethaw

September 2016 Sellecks

December 2016 Benson

Meeting called to order at 10:09 am

Board went into Executive Session concerning Knox Cave at 10:46 – 11:13

1. Introduction and greetings – Bob Addis
2. Attendance  
Officers: B. Addis, V. Kappler, B. Folsom, C. Hay  
Trustees: k. Dumont, T. Engel, M. Berger, T. Rider, J. Morris-Siegel
3. Absent without Proxy Traino, Ingalls, Woodell, Chu
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 Attachment D
8. Addis moved to open the Committee of the Whole. The Vice President will preside. Items can be entered as new business.  
2<sup>nd</sup> by Dumont  
**Passed unanimously**
  - Cave Closures – Signage , DEC to provide signs and small brochure, announcement
  - This is being postponed until December meeting since Alan was not present. Ella Armstrong Management Plan Review – Alan T.
    - Under Surface management I would change the following.
    - A small parking area is to be maintained along with a trail to the cave. A kiosk is also to be kept in good condition for any information about the cave .
    - Tax exempt status paragraph can be removed.
    - A sign in register needs to be added to the kiosk as per the management plan.
    - Future Plans : Number 2 and 3 don't apply.
  - Berger – EC over stepped bounds by setting up work day at Knox without managers input. Work day is cancelled.
  - Engel – Special Use Reservations – Limit to 2 slots for July and August.
  - Berger – weed whacker for preserves – NSS preserve manager will also check on budgets.
  - Davis – website needs to have barn dance posted.
  - Addis – quality of future land surveys , RFP, title search vs title insurance, share CAD files, Jacob has information they use in Massachusetts.
  - Engel – Clarksville management plan – was just reviewed but will add wording about Northern long eared bats.- new business
9. Kappler moved to close the Committee of the Whole.  
2<sup>nd</sup> by Engel  
**Passed unanimously**
10. Addis moved to accept the minutes of the June 2015 meeting.  
2<sup>nd</sup> by Morris-Siegel  
For: Rest, Abstain: Hay, Dumont  
**Passed**

11. Engel moved to add wording to the Clarksville management plan about the Northern Long Eared Bat.  
2<sup>nd</sup> by Berger  
**Passed unanimously**
12. Informational Point: Executive committee meeting will be Sunday November 8<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am in Kerhonkson, NY.
13. Informational Point: December board meeting will be December 6<sup>th</sup> starting at 10:00am at Speleobooks.
14. Addis moved that the NCC spring Board meeting will be March 6<sup>th</sup> , 2016 at 10:00 am in Connecticut. – location to be determined.  
2<sup>nd</sup> by Hay  
**Passed unanimously**
15. Hay moved to thank Gallupville House for use of their meeting space and the NCC will donate \$40.  
2<sup>nd</sup> by Dumont  
**Passed unanimously**
16. Addis moved to adjourn  
2<sup>nd</sup> by Engel  
**Passed unanimously**

Meeting adjourned at 1:02

### **Attachment A President's Report**

**Knox Cave Preserve.** The Board is still in Executive Session concerning the damages done to the property. The EC understands urgency but it also tempers it with due diligence.

The land survey is done and we own 8.5 acres – more than the tax maps show and slightly less than my 1978 estimate done with compass and tape. Property corners are set on all four corners. The northern access corridor 40 feet wide out to Middle Road is titled and deeded land that we own – slightly less than one acre. The eastern right of way out to Knox Cave Road, the normal access, is an easement 30 feet wide.

From CT Male's surveyors comes some good advice for all of the NCC Preserves – Have access trails cleared to all property corners so that they can be visited on a regular basis to see activity on our property. I anticipate incorporating this this the Cave Preserve Manager's Manual and requiring reporting visits in the Managers' reports in the future.

**Other Preserves.** See the attached managers' reports.

**Acquisitions.** The offer of a sale of the Straddle Canyon Karst Area has been withdrawn by the owners who have listed the property on the market for sale.

The donation of Spider Cave continues at the speed of town planning board monthly meetings, which has not been bad. The Planning Board of the Town of Wright is scheduling a site walk in the next few days, followed by the normal steps of certified letters to all abutting landowners, a legal notice in the papers, and finally a public hearing. The land survey should follow only after it is approved by the Town and goes hand in hand with the formal contract of transfer.

**Surveys of the NCC Preserves.** This is an ongoing status report of our land surveys, boundary markings, and NCC Office Committee files. It will continue to be updated and expanded as we tighten our control over our holdings. This report is generally shared with the Preserve Managers, the Board, and the Office Committee but it is not a secret and shared with anyone requesting it.

**Thacher Park Visitor Center.** The main structure is well under construction and work should continue over the winter. Thom Engel has been asked to serve on the interior design (displays) committee.

**Ad hoc Bat Hibernaculum Committee.** Emily Davis and Mike Warner Plans; put in applications for unsuitability for Onenesquathaw. Apply for take permit for Clarksville, Find out status of Spider and Staddle Canyon. Get federal information signs to be posted at caves. Visit Clarksville in winter with NY Dec. Possibly challenge some of their records as they have no idea where some of the information came from and several of the date they have were when the caves were closed and no one had permission to do a count. They can not tell us who did the count.

Progress; Met with Carl formally, met with a Fed rep informally. Now have information on how to proceed.  
Problems; Everything dealing with the Federal government takes lots of time. There is no way we will be able to get any of these things done before this winter. All NCC caves except for Sellecks will have to be posted as closed this winter.

**Ad hoc WNS Treatment Study Committee.** Peter Youngbaer –no report.

**NCC Preserve Reports**  
**Compiled by the President for the 9/13/15 Meeting**

**Bensons**

Progress: Visitation is slightly up from last year, with 8 permits given out ,and 7 trips confirmed. Last year at this time we had 7 permits given out, with 5 actual trips. The ROW has been mowed and trail cleared in anticipation of NRO and I expect at least a couple of trips during that time. Requests to visit from unqualified enthusiasts has essentially gone away. My guess is that the high volume of requests that had to be denied last year was due to the initial media coverage we received when the preserve first opened.

Plans: As I see the property get used I am less certain that an established parking area is necessary. The wide shoulder serves well for the few cars that show up for a trip, the cave is in a very quiet neighborhood, and laying down gravel could attract unwanted attention to the property (so far there seems to be no interest from locals in misusing the property). I will prioritize installation of a simple chain gate and seek opinions on the topic of parking.

Problems: Several dead trees threaten to come down on the trail. I will clear these as they come down as none present any immediate danger.

**Bentleys**

114 visitors signed into the register since the last report, between the dates of 3/21/2015 and July 24, 2015. There were no recorded visitors between July 24 and September 10, 2015.

Driveway condition remains acceptable but slowly deteriorating. We have been watching this for a few years now and I believe repair will be required in 2016. I would suggest budgeting \$400-600 for this purpose if possible.

Kiosk condition is good, and I replaced the signage with a fresh printout that we had on hand previously for that purpose. I will send a photo separately.

Trail is in good condition and I did some clearing along the way. The sinkhole shortly before the entrance has been consistently dry for the last few years, so the final section of trail now goes straight through rather than the higher route around the sinkhole that was used for the first few years since the establishment of the new trail. The current route is a better route but we can return to using the high route if needed in the future if conditions warrant.

No trash or evidence of vandalism was noted.

Plans have been made to do a boundary check and replace markers this fall after the leaves have dropped.

**Clarksville**

We have three small signs that direct visitors to our trail. Over a 9-day period in August these are broken, destroyed, or removed four times. They have been replaced and the Sheriff's patrol was asked to swing by occasionally as the signs are near the parking area. Steve Lewanick helped me (Thom) replace one of the signs.

Steve also reports that two of his groups removed party debris from the cave.

The management plan was updated per wording discussed at the last meeting.

New wording has been added regarding the Northern long-eared bat (MYSE). This needs to be approved by the board. A copy is attached.

On this score, the managers have granted permission to DEC via the hibernation committee to study the cave for MYSE. A report on their first trip, scheduled for 9/10, should be available at the upcoming board meeting

**Ella Armstrong**

**Progress**

- All maintenance has been done on the preserve.
- The trail is clear, well posted and in general great shape.
- The cleanup of the sinkhole continues.
- All 4 corners of the property were found ,and are well marked.

**Problems**

- Roof of Kiosk need to be replaced. New roof should be shingled. Current one is not just raw wood. (Mike Chu has some leftover shingles.)
- A lot of poison ivy near the sinkhole, needs to be removed.
- Parking lot will need to be mowed one more time this season.

**Plans**

- Replacement of roof on Kiosk.
- Removal of poison ivy from sinkhole.
- Digging out of sinkhole to continue

## **Knox**

### Progress:

- The land survey has been completed.
- Much discussion has occurred surrounding the damage near Crossbones that was mentioned in the previous report.
- We've issued 30 Knox permits and answered numerous inquiries since the last report. We've issued 1 Crossbones permit.
- Emily checked the inside of Knox in early August.
- Mitch and Craig Cantello inspected the property August 22.
- Mitch did trail maintenance of both main trails on August 30.

### Issues:

- We still have not resolved the major damage issue discussed at the last meeting, despite progress.
- There is evidence of unauthorized access attempts at Crossbones. (Discussed possible strategies at the meeting).
- There's a rope at the Great Divide of unknown age/origin.

### Plans:

- More frequent property inspection as the season comes to a close.
- Possible graffiti removal in Knox.
- Remediation of the damage at Crossbones.
- Addition of trail markers and re-posting of property.
- Assessment of whether to remove or replace the Great Divide rope
- Possible addition of a perimeter trail, to be discussed at the meeting.
- Management plan review for the next Board meeting.
- The DEC was about to begin bat trapping work at the preserve, which might continue into hibernation season.

## **Merlins**

### Progress:

Cave Trips: Ramon Armen ran a Boston Grotto trip to Merlins on 6/13; Steve Millett ran a Merlins trip during BatFest on 6/21; Ashley Pospisil ran a CCG Merlins trip on 7/12

Digs: A Slime Climb dig/investigation in Merlins on 5/30 more or less eliminated the dig there. John Dunham's report:

Jacob [Morris-Siegel], Ramon [Armen] and I investigated the north end of the Bat Canyon and pretty well knocked all the Slime Climb digs down the list. The bottom has some airflow, but it is a bigger project with lots of mud and clay to dig through, and no real open space visible bigger than 2-3". The middle level with the mud pool is the farthest north in the cave, but hasn't much to recommend it as a dig. Ramon climbed into the ceiling there and pushed ahead to a dead end, and he could see back through to the more open dig at the top level, which eliminated that one as well. End result, we should focus on Dome 12 to find the rest of the cave and then connect if and when we know where both sides are.

Dragon Bones digs on 5/30, 6/7 and 7/12 yielded more of the dirt and rock fill removed from the cave per the dig project proposal. Airflow in the back of the cave is encouraging, but the dig project currently needs 5-6 people per visit to be effective. Mike Telladira is organizing and supervising Dragon Bones digs, and anyone interested in joining the project should contact him at michael.telladira@gmail.com.

Other: Jacob Morris-Siegel attended a meet and greet for Columbia Land Conservancy, our partner in the Merlins preserve conservation easement, on 8/8. He met 10 people from the land trust.

### Problems:

Boundary marking: Jacob Morris-Siegel observed that the signs on the Merlins preserve boundary (and other NCC boundaries) are much larger than standard, and can be easily removed. He recommends blazing the Merlins boundary, and other boundaries, to ensure stable, long-term marking.

Preserve Management: The current preserve manager is working in a fieldwork job that keeps her hundreds of miles from the property, and out of regular e-mail contact. Given the status of the Merlins Preserve, a co-manager who can handle these day-to-day responsibilities, as well as manage regular documentation and reporting, is sorely needed.

### Plans:

- Printed copies of the NCC's standard signs should be provided for the kiosk as soon as possible.
- The caves will be posted closed for the winter at the kiosk and entrances at the beginning of October.

## **Onesquethaw**

Permits were issued for 28 groups with a total of 148 individuals for a mean group size of 5.3.

I have scheduled a workday for October 10. I would like to construct and install the kiosk called for in the management plan. When the county repaved the road they left a 3" – 4" drop off to the parking area. Contacted the foreman and the drop off was fixed.

## **Sellecks**

### Progress

- A cleanup of the property was done earlier this summer
- The kiosk was rebuilt, some wood replaced and the whole thing was painted.
- All of the trail was cleared and trimmed back
- All trail markers were replaced
- All property boundary markers were replaced.
- A new register was placed in the kiosk

### Problems

- 1 Parking lot needs to be mowed
- 2 Trail will need to be trimmed again one more time this season

### Plans

- To get the parking lot mowed as soon as possible
- To contact the farmer who was trimming the parking lot for us. Seems like it was forgotten this season. And get a firm idea if he will continue cutting it for us. If not, We will need to arrange something else.

## **Attachment B Vice President's Report**

Vice President's Report  
September 2015

### NCC Manual

Seventeen pages of the manual were updated after the June meeting and posted to the web a few days later.

### EC Conference

The EC met at Bill's home on August 9 for about six hours. While many topics were covered the overall focus was to develop strategies and priorities for the many short and long term activities the NCC is concerned with. Some topics were more akin to brain-storming long term goals while many others were more easily broken into workable segments. Each member accepted assignments designed to facilitate more effective management, oversight, and/or closure on a variety of issues. The face-to-face conference was long and a challenge to get everyone's schedule in sync but it was a success.

### Correspondence

Unsurprisingly I received, read, and responded (when appropriate) to hundreds of email exchanges between the EC and NCC members. Topics included discussion on a variety of pressing issues including: acquisitions, donations, endangered bats and cave closures, fundraising, liability insurance, NRO, preserve damage, preserve surveys, and public relations.

### **VP Committee Reports**

Education, Science, Special Use, Surprise Cave and Thacher Park Committees are assigned to the VP. Reports are included below as received with VP comments or additional information in *italics*.

#### **Education Committee**

Thom Engel, Chairman  
Nothing to report.

#### **Science Committee**

R. Laurence Davis, Ph.D, Chairman

There has been no activity (permits requested/reports submitted) since my last report in June. I will be contacting Dr. Espinasa to see what his plans are for the immediate future and to remind him that he needs to inform me and Thom when he plans to enter the cave for research purposes.

### **Special Use Committee**

Thom Engel, Chairman

During the period 113 permits were issued. Clarksville accounted for 88 or 78% of these. In the same period 19 permits were denied. These were confined to two camps with the same problem of not submitting waivers that are correct or timely. Five permits were issued and returned as the trips were cancelled.

I would like to initiate a new rule regarding reservations. I recommend that for the period July 1 through August 30, no group be allowed to reserve more than two (2) slots per day. A certain group that shall remain nameless reserves all 4 slots and then fails to submit waivers. This locks out other groups from reserving a slot. At this time, this rule change would affect only one group. For the last full 3 years, this 8-week period accounts for 53.6% of all special use requests.

I have received a request from something called the Baden Powell Scouts of America to enter Clarksville. They are NOT associated with the Boy Scouts of America. Any suggestions on how to handle these?

*Addendum (excerpted from follow-up emails): Thom advised that the correct name of the scout group is Baden-Powell Service Association. Their web site claims they teach "traditional scouting ... as it was practiced prior to the 1960s..." and are not affiliated with Boy Scouts of America. Thom is attempting to contact their national headquarters to inquire about any written policies they have regarding adventure type activities.*

*VP comments: The EC supports Committee Chairs in their day-to-day operational decisions. If the Special Use Committee determines that it can better manage visitation by limiting reservations to two slots per day the committee should implement that policy.*

### **Surprise Cave**

Bob Simmons, Chairman

We have the new agreement in place and a number of folks have sent me their Individual Volunteer Agreements. I have scheduled a rescue pre-planning visit for Saturday September 26<sup>th</sup>, which will be coordinated in-cave by NJ IRT and Sam's Point SAR personnel. The thought is to plan a seminar/mock for next spring including Cave Rescue personnel, Local EMS, Law Enforcement, NY DEC and Parks Rangers. I would like to have a second group there on the 26<sup>th</sup> as well to do some assessment and clean up, photo documentation of the cave conditions, etc. to form the basis of the cave at the start of this agreement. I have requested a meeting with our new coordinator at NY DEC Nate Ermer, but have yet to hear back (he has been away). Hopefully do a meet and greet and planning session late September or early October.

### **Thacher Park**

Thom Engel, Chairman

At the request of Steve Millet, I scheduled a Thacher work day for the Saturday of NRO. Nobody came. I plan a mid-week session in later September specifically to map features along the Indian Ladder Trail. The date is Tuesday, September 22.

I attended the first face-to-face meeting regarding the exhibits for the new Thacher Park Center. As a sidebar I discussed the timing of the NCC's donation with Erik Kulleseid of OSI. He said they will be looking for it in 6 to 8 months.

\$5k matching grant – what is the board willing to committee to? – NCC should match Thom and then we do a fundraiser to replenish the budget. Bill will put \$5k into the 2016 budget.

**Attachment C  
Treasurer's Report**

## Balance Sheet

As of September 9, 2015

09/09/2015

Sep 9, 15

**ASSETS**

Current Assets

Checking/Savings

Checking 1,499.84

Money Market 24,008.80

NSF Account 55,354.25

Total Checking/Savings 80,862.89

Northeastern Cave Conservancy Inc  
Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual  
January 1 through September 9, 2015

09/09/2015

	Actual	
	Jan 1 - Sep 9, 15	Budget 15
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
Donations		
Auction Donations	2,203.00	2,500.00
Donations - Other	<u>2,873.52</u>	<u>4,760.00</u>
Total Donations	5,076.52	7,260.00
Interest Earned	8.63	5.00
Membership Income	<u>3,015.00</u>	<u>4,500.00</u>
Total Income	8,100.15	11,765.00
Expense		
Acquisitions	0.00	2,000.00
Bank Charges	44.03	30.00
Development	0.00	500.00
Donations-outgoing	0.00	200.00
Easements	0.00	0.00
Education	0.00	100.00
Executive		
President	0.00	150.00
Secretary	0.00	75.00
Treasurer	0.00	275.00
VP	<u>0.00</u>	<u>75.00</u>
Total Executive	0.00	575.00
Insurance	1,285.66	1,450.00
Legal Fees	0.00	1,000.00
Licenses & Permits	60.00	50.00
Meeting Expense	0.00	100.00
Membership Expenses	0.00	100.00
Miscellaneous	0.00	100.00
Office Expense	0.00	100.00
Postage	48.00	100.00
Preserves-Maintenance		
Bensons	0.00	250.00
Bentleys	0.00	600.00

Clarksville	50.00	300.00
Ella Armstrong	0.00	100.00
Knox	6,975.00	200.00
Merlins	0.00	200.00
Onesquethaw	0.00	1,000.00
Sellecks	39.41	200.00
Total Preserves-Maintenance	7,064.41	2,850.00
Printing	0.00	500.00
Promotion/Fundraising	926.68	1,100.00
Publishing		
Mailings	0.00	50.00
Website	0.00	60.00
Total Publishing	0.00	110.00
Sponsorships	200.00	500.00
Taxes on Properties	121.19	300.00
Total Expense	9,749.97	11,765.00
Net Ordinary Income	-1,649.82	0.00
Other Income/Expense		
Other Income		
In Kind donations	0.00	0.00
Net Gain or Loss from NSF Fund	1,935.84	0.00
Volunteer Value	43,629.00	0.00
Total Other Income	45,564.84	0.00
Other Expense		
In Kind Out	0.00	0.00
Volunteer Value Exp	43,629.00	0.00
Total Other Expense	43,629.00	0.00
Net Other Income	1,935.84	0.00
Net Income	286.02	0.00

**Fundraising Chair – Jose Martinez:**

I would like to inform you that I have dropped off the NCC Fund raising letter that Emilly Davis had giving me @ Summer NRO to the following: REI store in Paramus, Campmor in Paramus and Ramsey Outdoor in Ramsey NJ....hope to here from them real soon.

**Barn Dance Subcommittee - Emily Davis and Mike Warner:**

Plans: Make sure tent, donations and advertising is in place. Announce and publicize at the NRO. Get more auction/raffle prizes, confirm menu and food needs with Christa, crush apples for homemade cider.

Progress: band locked in, posters printed and some distributed, lots of auction/raffle items in office already.

Problems: I have to be out of town until the day of the event. Hopefully no major airline delays.

**Membership Committee – Peter Youngbaer:**

Our official overall membership level has declined, breaking our string of three consecutive record highs. However, some of this is likely attributable to the scheduling of the NRO during the summer. Also, our NCC Board meeting is coming so soon after the Old Timers' Reunion, and we don't have our usual group of renewals from that event in time to report for this meeting.



We welcomed several new Life members during this period:

Tom Rider L#46  
Leslie Hatfield L#47  
Ellen Schwartz FL #48  
Jacob Morris Siegel L#49

We also had seven other new members (7 Regular and 1 Family). However, for two of those, I was apparently given incomplete or bad information. For Glen Luther, his email bounced, and for Eric Richards, I was only given an e-mail and no other contact information. I've emailed him, but have not heard back. It's very important for anyone collecting new memberships to get all contact information and double check with the member for accuracy. Thank you.

All renewal notices for memberships up through the end of the September have been sent, and new memberships and renewals have been acknowledged and entered into the data base. It is current as of September 7. Second reminders were sent, and lapsed notices (third notices) have also been sent to those who expired since the beginning of the year and have not replied to two notices. This repeated dunning has picked up some stragglers. However, there are some notable regulars, who have not yet responded.

Our current membership stands as follows, compared to the baseline of April 22, 2012:

September 7, 2015	April 22, 2012
Life: 42	Life: 18
Family Life: 7	Family Life: 0
Benefactor: 9	Benefactor: 10
Regular: 95	Regular: 88
Family: 16	Family: 16
Student: 0	Student: 0
Institutional: 4	Institutional: 3
<b>TOTAL: 173</b>	<b>TOTAL: 135</b>

Budget Implications of Membership: I received a note from Vince Kappler regarding our current breakout of memberships and how this might affect budgeting for next year. With the growth in our Life memberships, these members will no longer be sending annual dues. Therefore, when putting together projections for membership revenues, we can only estimate based on the other membership levels. If all of the above and current members renew at the same level in 2016, we would project:

Benefactor:  $\$50 \times 9 = \$ 450$   
Regular:  $\$15 \times 95 = \$1425$   
Family:  $\$5 \times 16 = \$ 80$   
Institutional:  $\$100 \times 4 = \$ 400$

Total: \$2355

This compares to a Budgeted amount of \$4260 for 2015, and an actual for 2014 of close to \$5,000. This trend shows us we must continue to increase new membership in order to increase membership revenue, or increase other fundraising in order to meet growing expenses. We might also consider raising our Regular membership to \$20, which would net us an additional \$500 (@), and could raise our Life memberships to \$400 (20 x Regular), with a marketing pitch to "Do it now, before the rates go up," to encourage more Life memberships.

The Membership Chair also requests the assistance of NCC Board members and officers in urging lapsed members to renew. The list below shows who has lapsed in the past year – all of whom have received multiple renewal notices, as well as a message saying, "We hope it's just an oversight, but your membership in the NCC has lapsed as of (date)." Please urge anyone you know on this list to renew. (Names removed for publication)

**Office Committee Report - Emily Davis & Mike Warner:**

Plans: Keep on keeping on.

Progress: Keeping up with waivers for Thom and memberships for Peter

Problems: None

**Volunteer Value Committee – Vince Kappler:**

Progress:

Year to date totals: 11495 hours of volunteer work and drive time for NCC projects for a total value of \$43,629.00. The total value is a 51% increase over what was reported in June. Volunteer hours were reported by the managers of Knox and Bensons Preserves as well as cavers working on the Thacher Park project. Volunteer hours were also submitted by the Membership and Office Committees.

Plans:

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

Problems:

None at this time.

**Attachment D  
Secretary Report**

Attended the EC meeting in Kerhonkson. One of the items I brought up was that we need to go back to face to face EC meetings. Conference calls are not always the best and we accomplished more in one day then we have in a long time.

Responded to many emails as is common between meetings.

Attended OTR and setup the NCC tent and spent all day Friday and Sunday. Crowds were low at OTR this year. Took in numerous memberships..

I spoke with Brad Smith while at OTR and he was telling me about Spider Caver when he was surveying the cave. I asked him to do a write up for our newsletter and figured it would be good to send out when the property is formally the NCCs.

**Publications: Christa Hay (Publisher, Publicity)**

Designed and ordered the new NCC display. Many members responded to my request for photos. I have asked in the most recent newsletter and all going forward to have members send me any photos they would like to share.

Asked and received newest board members information and photo and it has been uploaded to the website..

Newsletter was delivered to members. Will be working on getting the newsletter out at least 3 weeks before board meeting.

**Subcommittees:**

**Newsletter Editor: Danny Brass** – no report

**Webmaster – Mike Chu** – no report

**Bylaws Committee: Joe Levinson**

Nothing to report

**Nominating Committee Interim Report: Bob Simmons**

Not too early to be thinking about the Officers Elections at the December Meeting. Existing Officers, please let me know if you are running again (yes, no, maybe) and everyone else, please forward names of nominees you would like to be contacted/recruited/etc. Remember, we are always looking for candidates for the Board too, so keep that in mind and forward any names to me for consideration..

**EC Meeting**

**August 8, 2015 Kerhonkson**

I set this one up as a to-do list for the officers. We had a very long meeting and the list is the outcome.

**Bob to do list:**

Bob to contact Pokornys for possible use of barn after a perimeter clearing of the Knox property.  
Will contact Thom to start on management plans for Straddle and Spider - will also like to have Jay Simione help with Straddle.  
will contact Christine concerning the need for pre-purchase contract for Straddle.  
Meeting on Knox with ADA etc.  
Check on when town of Carlise planning board meeting date.  
Ask chuck to check with Spider owners if there is reason (taxes) that they might want to close by end of year. not that we are pushing that!  
Bob to ask Christine if they know of criteria they use for surveyors.  
Bob to write article on current fundraising for Straddle and Spider...once done...I will follow up a month later with mail chimp  
Bob to talk to Jacob about starting as co chair or full chair of Merlins

**Vince:**

if needed will try to make the Knox meeting with ADA etc.  
respond to Emily's Ad hoc bat committee on onesquethaw and clarksville...EC is in agreement with committees findings  
checking with NSS for Joe L award winning photo of Spider

**Bill:**

Look into making NCC facebook page public.  
Alan and Bill to write up article on NRO for newsletter  
Help Jose with fundraiser campaign for Straddle / Spider also the HD outing

**Christa:**

Check with Emily on the roll up display for NRO.  
Provide hats and other NCC items to Bill for NRO.  
2 large barn dance posters for NRO.  
I will check with Mitch on his availability for perimeter clearing of the Knox property.  
Membership list to Bill and one to Thom for Thacher.  
Sent out another mail chimp for more newsletter articles  
Contact Alan for Ella Armstrong article for newsletter - photos  
Set up NCC facebook account  
Article on our new display  
Finalize sketch for Straddle for the next town meeting  
have newsletter fixes updated and try for photos in layout, send risk assessment wording,,,send updates back to EC,  
Bob to write article on current fundraising for Straddle and Spider...once done...I will follow up a month later with mailchimp  
Send out email for reports for upcoming meeting and Ella Armstrong review.