

NORTHEASTERN CAVE CONSERVANCY, INC.

Minutes

Submitted by Christa Hay
09/20/03 Speleobooks, 11:00 AM

Meeting called to order at 11:02 PM

1. Introduction and greetings – President Bob Addis
 - Moment of silence for Pete Johnson
2. Attendance:
Officers: B. Addis, B. Folsom, J. Levinson, C. Hay
Trustees: J. DeGroff, V. Kappler, A. Lehmann, E. Lucas, S. McLuckie (11:22),
P. Murphy, J. Siemion, M. Warner.
3. Absent with Proxy: Tom Rider was proxy for Jon Allison
4. President's Report – Bob Addis - no report.
5. Vice President's Report – Bill Folsom - oral
 - Need to work on getting more acquisitions in line.
6. Treasurer's Report – Joe Levinson - Attachment A (following this report)
 - TRA also gives grants- will contact them when Clarksville is a firm offer.
7. Secretary's Report – Christa Hay - Attachment B
8. Acquisitions Committee Report –Chuck Porter - oral
 - Spoke with June Alberts- she has not talked to Town about the 50' ROW to road, \$50,000 is price.
 - ACLC has a policy that it must raise \$10,000 for each property that it owns. The \$10K is put into escrow and the interest is used to pay for an outside report (audit) each year. Should not be an issue but is another step in the process
 - Ella Armstrong- B. Addis has been in contact with realtor- put in an offer of \$15,000 for 14 acres- they declined and came back with \$25,000. Tried to buy 1 acre around cave but they declined that too.
 - Joobar Hole - owner has recently passed away - will discuss with widow when appropriate.
 - Westfalls - no contact lately - owner will contact us when they have a chance.
9. Conservation Committee Report - Joe Armstrong - oral
 - Knox clean up at 10:00 AM September 21st
 - There are propane containers on Clarksville - how to get rid of.
 - What are our dumping rights since we own the property.
 - Schohaire Cleanup - \$321 to dispose of tires. Al Lehmann and Paul Murphy tool a load of metal to dump.
10. Fundraising Committee Report - Alan Traino - Attachment C
 - Report was emailed after the meeting.
11. Membership Committee Report - Tonya Smothers - no report.
12. Nominating Committee Report - Bob Simmons - Attachment D

13. Onesquethaw Cave Preserve Report – Thom Engel - oral
 - Tom Rider took the ACLC on a trip.
 - ACLC still saying they want to turn cave over to NCC.
 - Status quo
14. Sellecks Karst Preserve Report - Jon Allison - no report
15. Knox Cave Preserve Report – Emily Davis - oral
 - Used extensively by summer camps
 - Clean up September 21st
 - Status quo
16. Proposed Clarksville Preserve Report - Mike Warner - oral
 - Introducing the draft management plan - later in meeting.
17. Publications/Publicity Committee Report - Christa Hay - oral
 - Newsletter is now going out electronically to most members- this has reduced our costs from around \$70 to \$20.
 - Emailed Kara Ulasewicz at Howe Caverns concerning the NCC having a space in new museum. Kurt Pelton was to be working with us but have not heard from him.
 - Working on professional posters of the preserves.

Order suspended to discuss joining the NSS Conservancy Committee

18. NSS Conservancy Committee - Attachment E
 - John Wilson spoke to board on speakerphone inviting the NCC to become committee member.
 - NSS would like to see caves of local significance owned by local conservancies.
 - Explained difference between committee and being an institutional member.
 - There is no funding - mainly to have representatives at convention.
 - NCC should have a delegate for convention.
 - President and Secretary should be NSS members - but that would be on honor system.
19. Website Subcommittee Report – Norm Berg - Attachment F
20. Office Committee Report – Emily Davis / Mike Warner - oral
 - Status quo
 - Working on getting renewals
 - Secretary gave numbers on OTR and Fall NRO.
21. Land Trust Liaison Committee Report – Mike Warner - oral
 - Trip for ACLC headed by Tom Rider
22. NCKMS 2005 Report - Mike Warner
 - Holding off on a data to make sure the selected speakers can attend - but should be first week in November.
23. Legal Committee Report – Dan Werner- no report.
24. Addis moved to open the Committee of the Whole. The Vice President will preside.
 2nd by Lucas
Passed unanimously
 - B. Folsom - will investigate Network for Good on possible new charges.

- Ella Armstrong negotiations - is the cave worth owning at \$25,000 for 14 acres, can NCC buy and then sell the rest of the land, what are restrictions in Albany should check on subdivision issues, if we buy the land we should subdivide right away.
- NSS Conservancy - does it look bad if we do not join the committee?
- Liability insurance for preserves - \$3000 a year not dependent on how many preserves the NCC owns according to Jim Hall of SE Cave Conservancy, NCC did pay for a legal description, keep our assets low - conservation easements so not worth to sue NCC - officers should have own liability insurance through a personal umbrella policy.
- Roger E. Dinsmore - Dinsmore Caverns - Chuck Porter will contact.
- A. Lehmann - take memberships, have brochures for visitations to preserves, does asking for donations make us liable?
- V. Kappler - how to pay back the interest free loans from members.
- P. Murphy - does the board have to approve or take action on each item/loan?

25. Folsom moved to close the Committee of the Whole. Items from this meeting will be introduced as new business.

2nd by Lehmann

Passed unanimously

Lunch Break

26. Hay moved to accept the minutes of the May 31, 2003 meeting.

2nd by Levinson

Passed unanimously

27. Warner moved that the NCC join the West Virginia Cave Conservancy in sponsoring the Cave Conservancies Forum to be held in Lewisburg, West Virginia on April 15- 17, 2004. One hundred dollars is budgeted to be used towards hosting one of the evenings in the hospitality room.

2nd by McLuckie

Passed unanimously

28. Warner moved that Amy Cox and Aaron Cox of 31 Pond Brook Road, Newton, CT. are appointed as Special Use Coordinator(s) under the Preserves Committee to handle the access to NCC properties for groups needing considerations such as advance trip scheduling and insurance liability certificates. The Special Use Coordinator(s) may liaison with NSS property managers in order to combine access procedures.

2nd by Kappler

Passed unanimously

29. Warner moved that the Clarksville Management Plan prepared by Thom Engel be accepted.

2nd by Lucas

Passed unanimously

30. Hay moved that Ben Peikes design an online membership database for the NCC. This will be under the Website Committee.

2nd by Folsom

Passed unanimously

31. Lucas moved that Act 65-17 is amended to read: The NCC, Inc. shall join the NSS Cave Conservancy Committee.

2nd by Warner

For - Rest, Abstained - Folsom

Passed

32. Addis moved that the Officers will conduct an Executive Committee meeting on November 9th at 10:30 AM in Kerhonkson.
2nd by Levinson
For - Rest, Abstained- Rider, Warner
Passed

33. Addis moved that the next NCC Board meeting will be held on December 14th at 11:00AM in Cohoes.
2nd by Levinson
Passed unanimously

34. Addis moved to thank Speleobooks for hosting meeting and providing lunch.
2nd by _____
Passed unanimously

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

Meeting adjourned at 2:50 PM

Attachment A

Treasurers Report For The Northeastern Cave Conservancy, Inc. 20-Sep-03

As of 19-Sep-03 we had \$19,989.42 in our bank account. In addition, at the last accounting, we had assets around \$12,333 being held by the National Speleological Foundation. I have submitted an application for grant money from the foundation, and am waiting to hear from them. I have approached the NSS about grant money for Clarksville, but need an approved management plan before we can proceed. There are also a few other places that we can obtain mortgage money from.

Respectively submitted,

Joe E. Levinson

Attachment B
Secretary's Report
Christa Hay
9/20/03

Convention: Put together a few items for Tom Rider to take for convention. Just a few brochures, lanyards, stickers and membership forms and member lists. Thanks to Tom.

NRO: Did not do an actual setup but brought lanyards, stickers, biners, brochures, membership sign up. There was a 50/50 raffle and an auction. Office committee will report numbers.

OTR: Standard set up. Took in a couple new members and received dues. Shared tent with Cave Conservancy of Hawaii. 50/50 raffle - Office Committee will report numbers.

Website: At past EC meeting it was discussed to have the release forms for NCC property available online. Received these forms from Thom Engel and they have been forwarded to Norm Berg.

Clarksville: Info on town of New Scotland's comprehensive plan. Clarksville Caves are noted as worthy of protection (pg 3), Subdivision regulations -pg 4 - article 3 - areas characterized by steep slopes, rock formations, or other features, shall not be subdivided into residential lots.

NCC BBQ: Helped organized the annual NCC get-together held in historic Cohoes. Thanks to everyone for bringing food and your selves. It was a good time.

Minutes: Board meeting minutes and EC minutes delivered to board.

Attachment C
Fundraising
Alan Traino

I have sent in paper work to the following; Eastern Mountain Stores; 2000.00 dollars, The National Speleological Society a grant for 3000.00 dollars for a new portable display booth featuring Cave and Karst Information, N.C.C info and N.S.S. info. The N.S.S for another 5000.00 dollars for the acquisition of Clarksville Cave. I have also requested 2000.00 dollars from the Rockland Astronomy Club for the purpose of buying other caves or helping out with the Clarksville and or Ella Armstrong purchase.

Attachment D

The Northeastern Cave Conservancy, Inc.
Nominating Committee Chair
PO Box 57
Winchester Center, CT 06094

RE: REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIR, SEPTEMBER 20, 2003

To The Board:

There has been no activity by this committee since the last Board Meeting in May.

The following is the tentative schedule for the committee for the upcoming year for the Boards review and comment:

1. Request for nominations for officers and committee chairs to go out via e-mail to the membership in mid-October.
2. Short piece for inclusion in the November Newsletter requesting nominations for officers/chairs.
3. Poll the incumbents concerning their desire to sit for another year concurrent with the above requests.
4. One week prior to the December board meeting, present the board with the slate of candidates for their consideration.
5. At the December Board meeting, read the slate of candidates into the record for Board action.
6. E-mail request for Board candidates in mid-February and follow up in late-March.
7. Newsletter piece for the February edition.
8. Poll incumbents concerning their desire to sit for re-election concurrent with 6&7, above.
9. Mail ballots to membership in mid-April.
10. Tally votes and notify board and candidates of results in late-May.
11. Present election results to Board at June Board meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Simmons

Attachment E

NSS Cave Conservancy Committee

NSS Cave Conservancy Designation

Requirements for Conservancy Designation

- Agree with the purposes of the NSS
- The major officers of the conservancy are expected to be NSS members.
- Apply in writing by e-mail or hard copy to the Cave Conservancies Committee; provide a statement of intent to affiliate as a conservancy, a list of major officers, and any other information that describes the activities and purpose of the conservancy.
- The Cave Conservancies Committee recommends action on approval to the Board of Governors, which has the authority to confer the NSS Conservancy designation.

What the Conservancy Designation Means

Each NSS Conservancy:

- May use the following statement in its publications, stationary, promotional material and other places. "A Conservancy of the National Speleological Society"
- Will be listed in NSS publications as a conservancy of the NSS
- Will be listed as an NSS Cave conservancy on all the Cave Conservancy Committee web pages. Appropriate statistical and other information may be listed in this web site.
- Are classified within a group of organizations referred to as "NSS activities." These presently include four groups of organizations. They are: NSS Expeditions, NSS Projects, Conservation Task Forces, and Conservancies. All of these NSS activities operate with autonomy from the NSS leadership. These relationships for the other activities parallel the ones listed here for conservancies and are defined in the Board of Governors Manual.
- May participate more effectively in developing and recommending NSS policy related to cave conservancies.
- May participate in the planning and presentation of conservancy educational functions such as the Annual Cave Conservancy Round Table held at the NSS Convention.
- May have its members serve on the NSS Cave Conservancies Committee.
- May have its members serve as expert trainers on conservancy topics.
- Have convenient and low cost access to communication with NSS members.
- Services are provided by the Cave Conservancies Committee as mutually agreed by the Committee and the Cave Conservancy.
- May give up the designation at any time.

What Conservancy Designation Does Not Mean

NSS Cave Conservancies:

- Are not internal organizations of the NSS, by virtue of this designation. A conservancy could also apply to become an internal organization of the NSS. That process is done by a committee in a different department and has a different set of criteria. Refer to the Board of Governors Manual for details.
- Do not pay dues to the NSS. Conservancies could become institutional members, see that explanation later.
- Does not receive a subscription to NSS News and Journal. The individual officers of the conservancy who are NSS members receive these publications.
- Are not required to file an annual report. However, Cave Conservancies are encouraged to send a copy of any significant publication to the Cave Conservancies Committee, and the NSS Library. Other communication with the Committee is welcome.
- Do not have any liabilities for this affiliation with the NSS. Liability is generally limited to officers, board members and some times staff or other leaders of incorporated associations. A long-standing legal principle in the United States holds that members and loosely affiliated organizations are not liable in any way for action taken by an organization with which they affiliated.

Attachment F
Webmaster Report for Board Meeting of Sept 20, 2003:

The NCC website continues as usual, with minor updates. Email material for the site and, as a favor to me and the readership, please write your submission as detailed as possible, avoiding only acronyms and providing the what, when, where, why, and who that keeps the content understandable to those not intimate with northeastern caving.

-- Norm Berg, Sept 18, 2003