

NORTHEASTERN CAVE CONSERVANCY, INC.

Board Meeting Minutes

Submitted by Christa Hay

12/08/2002 Howe Caverns Restaurant -10:00am

Meeting called to order at 10:03am

1. Introduction and greetings – President Bob Addis
2. Attendance:
Officers: B. Addis, B. Folsom (arrived 10:10), C. Hay, J. Levinson
Trustees: J. Allison, C. Cantello (arrived 10:35), V. Kappler, A. Lehmann, E. Lucas,
P. Murphy, T. Rider, M. Warner.
3. Absent without proxy:
S. McLuckie
4. Nominating Committee Report - Bob Simmons
5. Addis moved to convene a meeting of the Trustees to elect Officers. M. Warner will preside over the elections as Chairman of the Trustees and will report. The new Officers will be seated at this time
2nd by Lucas
Passed unanimously

Due to no other nominations the existing Officers were elected to the same positions:
President – B. Addis
Vice President – B. Folsom
Treasurer – J. Levinson
Secretary – C. Hay
6. President's Report – Bob Addis – Attachment A. (found at end of document)
7. Vice President's Report – Bill Folsom - Attachment B.
8. Treasurer's Report – Joe Levinson – Attachment C.
9. Secretary's Report – Christa Hay - Attachment D
10. Acquisitions Committee Report – Chuck Porter - oral.
 - Westfalls Springs - had a talk with the owner but he is still very busy and not sure what he want to do with the property.
 - Church and Wagon Wheel - there is no "For Sale" sign at the property
 - Bethlehem - no movement
11. Knox Cave Preserve Report – Emily Davis - oral.
 - Jim Kennedy of Bat Conservation International, Inc.- showed him around to the preserves. He says we should have information booths at all the sites - map of land, walking trails etc.
12. Onesquethaw Cave Preserve Report – Thom Engel -oral.
 - There was no need for any closures this year
 - Albany County Land Conservancy - no changes to current land use which affects adding a parking area.
13. Sellecks Karst Preserve Report - Jon Allison -oral.
 - Small amount of visitation.

Order suspended for John Sagendorf, Manager of Howe Caverns to be present for the discussion of the National Cave and Karst Management Symposium.

14. Addis moved that Howe Caverns be thanked for their generous donation of facilities and breakfast items.

2nd by Levinson

Passed unanimously

15. Warner moved to put together a bid for the NCC to host the Fall 2005 National Cave and Karst Management Symposium. (See attachment E)

2nd by Allison

Passed unanimously

Order continued.

16. Publications Committee Report – Christa Hay -oral.

- Newsletter mailed out.

17. Website Subcommittee Report – Bill Folsom - oral.

- Norm Berg would like to volunteer for webmaster - motion to follow.

18. Office Committee Report – Emily Davis/Mike Warner - oral

- Still having to push for renewals - mostly trying to do it by email.
- Approximately 125 paid members (6-7 Institutional)
- 1 check came in from Network for Good and this was the test donation.

19. Land Trust Liaison Committee Report – Mike Warner- nothing to report.

20. Legal Committee Report – Dan Werner- absent.

21. Addis moved to open the Committee of the Whole. The Vice President will preside.

2nd by Kappler

Passed unanimously

- Spring NRO 2003 - need to find a place to hold it, NCC will do the auction (Addis, Porter, Davis), Robin Strashun to help with registration. See VPs attachment B.
- Rebecca Okongwu - fathers donation of any item the NCC may need not exceeding the sum of \$2,000-prefer it to be something electronic. Items thought of: monitoring equipment, survey equipment, exhibit items, Folsom to work on proposal with emphasis on monitoring equipment - Warner to provide prices to Folsom for proposal.
- Norm Berg volunteered for Website Committee and Alan Traino for Fundraising Committee.
- Ella Armstrong Cave - for sale thru Century 21, \$75,000 for 20 acres, no perk test, owner will hold private mortgage, Addis will look into options for this cave, small cave little visitation
- Clarksville Cave - much discussion on the proposed purchase of the property, Thom Engel draft of management plan, no interest in the diner that is for sale, people will need to do a stewardship to help at the cave, how to get the word around that new owners, mailing to communities/institutes about the new owners and rules, liability, environmental easement, offers of donations and interest free loans equaling \$23,000 from members at the meeting.
- NCC Tent- Emily Davis to look into price of having bags made for the tent - box is falling apart and hard to transport.
- Bid for NCC to be donation receiver at Howe Caverns Halloween - first availability will be year 2005 - pass on to Fundraising Committee.
- Property markers - Thom Engel - NCC should have small plastic boundary markers for all NCC property.

22. Folsom moved to close the Committee of the Whole. Items from this meeting will be introduced as new business.
2nd by Cantello
Passed unanimously
23. Hay moved to approve the minutes of the September 7, 2002 meeting.
2nd by Cantello
Passed unanimously
24. Levinson moved to accept the 2003 budget as attached in the treasures report.
2nd by Lehmann
Passed unanimously
25. Warner moved to put together a bid for the NCC to host the Fall 2005 National Cave and Karst Management Symposium. (See attachment E)
2nd by Allison
Passed unanimously
26. Folsom moved Norm Berg is confirmed as Webmaster of the Website Committee.
2nd by Warner
Passed unanimously
27. Folsom moved Alan Traino is confirmed as Chairman of the Fundraising Committee.
2nd by Lehmann
Passed unanimously
28. Folsom moved Bob Addis will approach the owners to negotiate a purchase price up to \$35,000 for the Clarksville Cave parcel and report to the board.
2nd by Lehmann
Passed unanimously
29. Addis moved Jon Allison will draft a letter to Director of Finance, Albany County for them to consider donation of Lot 5 (105.04-1-5.0)
2nd by Folsom
Passed unanimously (Kappler absent)
30. Cantello moved to allot up to \$5000 for a kiosk at Wards Entrance of Clarksville Cave.
Dies for lack of 2nd
31. Addis moved that the Officers will conduct an Executive Committee meeting on March 2 at 11:00am at B. Folsom's house. NCC Members are encouraged to attend.
2nd by Levinson
For: Rest, Abstained: Rider, Lucas
Passed
32. Addis moved that the next NCC Board meeting will be held on March 15 at 2:00pm at Speleobooks. (potluck to follow)
2nd by Folsom
Passed unanimously
33. Addis moved to adjourn.
2nd by Levinson
Passed unanimously

Meeting adjourned at 12:57pm

Attachment A
NCC PRESIDENT'S REPORT

12/08/02

As I run for my third elected term as President, I am pleased at the efforts of the NCC and all its volunteers. It is obvious that we are a viable entity in many communities – the caving community, the local community, the Land Trust Alliance. Reading the literature you see our name mentioned again and again as an organization that is doing things. Our newsletter, website, and discussion group document progress, and the NCC tent at activities such as NRO's, Old Timers and the NSS Convention has certainly enhanced our reputation.

I am equally pleased to watch our acquisitions program unfold. I have heard that things are moving too slowly and that it takes forever to actually take ownership. The facts of life indicate that the NCC is moving in a deliberate and considered manner. Management plans take time to write; land surveying takes time and has weather restrictions, the Board must debate and the discussion group discuss, etc. We owe it to our members and we owe it to the caves to do it right.

We have before us information about the possible acquisition of Ella Armstrong and/or Clarksville caves through purchases. For a first time in the history of the NCC, the Board will be faced with financial choices – choices that have long lasting effect if we acquire a mortgage(s). As well, there are longer-lasting commitments to cave management, particularly with Clarksville Cave, and there is the question of liability of ownership. This is precisely what a Board does, and it is easy to see why it takes so long.

Thank you for your continued support.

Attachment B
Vice President's Report

12/08/02

Two New NCC volunteers step up to the plate

After much research, I have 2 new candidates willing to take on significant responsibilities for the NCC. Norm Berg, Webmaster for CCG, has agreed to take on managing the NCC website with me as his back-up, and Alan Traino, NJ caver, has agreed to be fundraising chair. Alan raised over \$120,000 for his astronomy club. Both would like to address the board with their qualifications during the meeting of the whole so that the Board may make the appropriate formal motions.

Spring NRO planning status

Date has been established: May 16-18

Location still to be determined. Several campgrounds in the Schoharie county area have been contacted. Waiting to hear back from the owner of Nickerson Park Campground in Gilboa (he is in FL and the caretaker was to pass the message on, should hear back mid-December). Twin Oaks campground, site of the snowy NRO last Spring was contacted, but the damage to the site may keep us from returning there this soon. Due to its convenient location and wealth of facilities, Cobleskill Fairgrounds was contacted – we are waiting for another event-holder who has first dibs on that weekend to give up the date to us possibly.

Other items committed to by various groups/persons:

Dinner: HHG?

Breakfasts: VCA, CCG

Winetasting Friday evening: Tonya Smothers of Met Grotto

Squeezebox: Chuck Porter

Caving videos: Bob Cohen, Seth Perlman

Photo Salon: Nicole Biamonte will handle if no one else steps forward

Vertical contest/demonstration: Mark Folsom

NCC in other NE states

Dan Werner, Legal Committee chair, has read Annie Tocker's analysis of what is required for the NCC to have legal status in NJ and VT, and feels it needs further research. He has promised to do this, but has not tendered an opinion yet.

Attachment C
Treasurers Report
For
The Northeastern Cave Conservancy, Inc.
8-Dec-02

As of 11-Nov-02 we had \$9747.84 in our bank account. In addition, at the last accounting, we had assets around \$12,000 being held by the National Speleological Foundation. Attached is the proposed operating budget for the NCC for the year 2003.

Respectively submitted,

Joe E. Levinson

Attachment D
Secretary's Report

12/08/2002

EC Meeting: I was ill and not able to attend the November EC meeting. Bob Addis and Craig Cantello took minutes and emailed to members.

Symbolic Device: I found a usable item (surprise) that we can get with our name inscribed on it - the total price will be:

Item (200) = \$198

Processing fee = \$12.95 (less than half of what they normally charge)

Shipping & handling = \$13.95 (approx.)

Total = \$224.90

This was approved at the November EC meeting to purchase with the 2003 budget as it stands now. As long as the budget passes then the order will be placed the beginning of January -prices are set until then. If the budget is changed then further discussion might be necessary.

Acquisitions: I have gathered the tax maps and NYS Real Property Data on the properties that contain Clarksville Cave and Ella Armstrong Cave. The data is probably 1-2 years old - it all depends on how fast the county gets the information updated.

Budget for 2003

Description			Actual from 2002	Fund	Income			
Knox Property	\$	75.00	\$ -	Preserve	Regular Members	52	\$ 15.00	\$ 780.00
Onesquathaw Property	\$	250.00	\$ -	Preserve	Family Members	4	\$ 5.00	\$ 20.00
Sellecks Property	\$	175.00	\$ 168.88	Preserve & General	Student Members	1	\$ 10.00	\$ 10.00
Office Expense	\$	10.00	\$ -	Mailing & Office	Benefactors	11	\$ 50.00	\$ 550.00
Office of the President	\$	10.00	\$ -	Mailing & Office	Institutional Members	6	\$ 100.00	\$ 600.00
Office of the Vice President	\$	10.00	\$ -	Mailing & Office	Symbolic Devices		\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
Office of the Treasurer	\$	10.00	\$ -	Mailing & Office	NRO	150	\$ 20.00	\$ 3,000.00
Office of the Secretary	\$	10.00	\$ -	Mailing & Office	Total Members	74		\$ 5,160.00
Web Site	\$	15.00	\$ -	Mailing & Office				
Mailings (4 newsletters, 1 election)	\$	378.25	\$ 256.18	Mailing & Office				
Legal Fees	\$	100.00	\$ -	Legal				
Promotional Items	\$	1,000.00	\$ 873.50	General				
Petty Cash	\$	25.00	\$ 24.00	Mailing & Office				
NRO	\$	2,000.00	\$ -	General				
Total	\$	4,068.25	\$ 1,322.56					

Mailings	Price per Unit	Number	Total
Copying	\$ 0.05	884	\$ 44.20
Postage	\$ 0.37	85	\$ 31.45
			\$ 75.65