

NORTHEASTERN CAVE CONSERVANCY, INC.

Board Minutes

Submitted by Christa Hay

3/3/07 Gallupville House, Gallupville, NY 1:00 PM

Meeting called to order at 1:17 PM

1. Introduction and greetings – President Bob Addis
2. Attendance:
Officers: B. Addis, P. Youngbaer, B. Folsom, C. Hay
Trustees: J. Allison, J. Armstrong, M. Chu, A. Hicks, V. Kappler, M. Martuscello, J. Siemion, B. Simmons, M. Warner.
3. Absent without Proxy: none
4. Absent with Proxy: none
5. Hay moved to thank Bill Folsom for his work as the Vice President from December 2000 – December 2006.
2nd by Armstrong
For –Rest, Opposed – Folsom
Passed
6. President's Report – Bob Addis- Attachment A
7. Vice President's Report –Peter Youngbaer – Attachment B
8. Treasurer's Report –Bill Folsom - Attachment C
9. Secretary's Report – Christa Hay
 - Status quo
 - Electronic Votes:
Folsom moved that the NCC adopt the 2007 budget submitted via email on 1/18/07.
2nd by Allison
For: Allison, Kappler, Hay, Chu, Siemion, Youngbaer, Simmons, Armstrong
Abstained: Folsom
Passed

Hay moved the Board approve Emily Davis, Robert P. Addis and William Folsom to make deposits, endorse checks, and execute the transfer of funds for the NCC. This rescinds all previous resolutions.
2nd by Kappler
For: Kappler, Simmons, Hay, Youngbaer, Chu, Allison, Armstrong, Siemion, Hicks
Abstained: Folsom, Warner
Passed
10. Acquisitions Committee Report –Chuck Porter – no report
11. Bylaws Committee Report – Joe Levinson
 - I am awaiting the minutes from the December meeting to update the board manual.
12. Conservation Committee Report - Joe Armstrong
 - Talked to Al Lehmann – hopefully can have the cleanup on his property for the June meeting...better time for that cleanup.
 - Meeting update: quick cleanup at Clarksville in the morning.
13. Publications/Publicity Committee Report - Christa Hay
 - Tasked Bob Addis to write article for the NSS Conservation issue on the Hailes Cave Project.
14. Fundraising Committee Report - Alan Traino
 - Nothing to report

15. Office Committee Report – Emily Davis / Mike Warner
 - *Problems:* none
 - Progress:* The transition to the new treasurer is moving along well. We are getting our system ironed out and changes put in place. The tax letters were sent out the first week in January. I would like a notice put in the next newsletter letting members know that if they did not get a tax letter, and expected one to please contact the office.
 - Plans:* none
16. Knox Cave Preserve Report – Emily Davis/Jay Siemion.
 - Working on new signage, otherwise quiet
17. Onesquethaw Cave Preserve Report – Thom Engel – no report
18. Sellecks Karst Preserve Report – Jason Siemion
 - Quiet as usual in winter.
19. Clarksville Preserve Report – Mike Chu, Thom Engel, Chuck Porter
 - *Problems:* No significant problems to report. During the mock rescue practice on 2/6/07, it was noted that there is a bit of broken glass in the upper level of the cave just south of the Thook passage junction as well as in the main room. Some graffiti was also noticed in various parts of the cave.
 - Plans:* Gravel needs to be brought in to finalize the new parking lot and prevent it from becoming a mud-trap during wet weather. The lot may need to be smoothed out again before the application of the top layer gravel. We plan on doing this in the spring once the snow melts and the lot dries out. Trail between the lower parking lot and the kiosk needs to be smoothed out and better defined. It is on the list of things to do next spring. Plan a cleanup trip to remove the glass and graffiti--the paint will need to be scrubbed off as it is pretty thick.
20. Ella Armstrong Preserve Report – Joe Armstrong
 - Nothing to report
21. Membership Report – Sean Ryan
 - Renewal notices are out through May.
22. Website Subcommittee Report – Mike Chu
 - Status quo - no problems to report
23. Land Trust Liaison Committee Report – Jon Allison
 - No updates
24. Legal Committee Report – Dan Werner – no report
25. Special and Group Use Coordinators – Aaron and Amy Cox – no report
26. Financial and Investments Committee – Joe Levinson
 - Nothing to report
27. Volunteer Value Committee – Vince Kappler
 - *Progress:* Final VV totals for 2006 1389.5 hours of work to support the NCC mission valued at \$29955.00. 448 hours driving time. The web page to submit hours, http://www.necaveconservancy.org/add_vv.php is working very well and some members are using it regularly. I encourage all Officers, Committee Chairs and Property Managers to check it out.

Two caving organizations requested information on how we implemented and track VV: the Texas Cave Conservancy and the Australian Speleological Survey. I sent the Texans a copy of the forms we use and an overview of how we started the program. The Australians requested permission to use the forms *and* some of the materials I prepared for the Conservancies Forum held last September in Lewisburg. I gave them everything they requested as well as permission to reproduce the articles, forms, and spreadsheet I used.

I sent an email to the NCC Officers, Trustee, Property Managers, and Committee Chairs reminding them to track their hours and submit them as they accumulate.

Plans: I will continue to collect data and maintain totals of the hours, mileage, and expenses members contribute to NCC projects. I will send periodic VV reminders to the membership, monitor data collection, and try to answer questions as they come up.

Problems: None at this time

28. Ad hoc Committee - Code of Ethics and Conflict of Interest- Vince Kappler – Attachment D

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

2nd by Allison

Passed unanimously

- Davis – local community announcements.
- Allison – endowments – MHLC - \$25k per property for maintenance in the long term. NCC should consider this issue.
- Simmons – Surprise Cave – draft letter sent around to the Board. Formal introduction of the NCC and what is included in a cave management plan to the Pat Vissering. Asking for comments.
- Davis – what is going on with bathroom at Clarksville? This needs to be done. Ongoing discussion. Board wants outhouse. Christa Hay got unofficial word that it is ok to build outhouse in Albany County. Chuck Porter will call Albany County Dept. of Health for final ok and the town for ok. Joe Armstrong and Mike Chu will work on design and location.
- Addis – Beckers Cave – public meeting couple of weeks ago most people do not want the quarry expansion. DEC called last week and were interested in the buffer zone issue. Bob sent the information around to the rest of the board –waiting for comments –then have to send back to the DEC before end of comment period. Mike Chu will distribute the DEC EIS document to the board so we can make comments.
- Kappler – should have a motion for representative to the convention.
- Porter – NCC should be represented at the Carlisle events this summer. Mike Chu and Mike Martuscello will help lead tours on the McFails property for this event.
- Hicks – Hailes Cave project – bat counts – open invite to us for Thursday, March, 8.

Informational Point: President establishes the Surprise Ad hoc Committee with Bob Simmons as Chair and Bill Folsom and Vince Kappler on committee.

30. Youngbaer moved to close the Committee of the Whole.

2nd by Folsom

Passed unanimously

31. Addis moved to open an executive session to discuss strategy.

2nd by Folsom

Passed unanimously

Time entered: 2:43 PM

Simmons moved to close the executive session.

2nd by Kappler

Passed unanimously

Time ended 4:20 PM

32. Hay moved to accept the minutes of the December 10, 2006 meeting.

2nd by Allison

Passed unanimously

33. Youngbaer moves that the Northeastern Cave Conservancy, Inc. join the Land Trust Alliance.

2nd by Folsom

Postponed to June Meeting.

34. Folsom moved that the Northeastern Cave Conservancy donate \$ 100.00 to 8 Rivers Safe Development.

2nd by Armstrong

Passed unanimously

35. Kappler moved the NCC adopts a Conflict of Interest Policy. Officers, Trustees, Committee Chairs, Property Managers, and members who have propriety information concerning the NCC, in order to retain their position(s) with the NCC, will agree to the terms and sign the Conflict of

Interest Policy statement. The NCC Secretary will retain the signed Conflict of Interest Policy statements in a permanent file.

2nd by Siemion

For – rest, Abstained – Martuscello

Passed

Youngbaer moved to amend that we use the long form.

2nd by Warner

For – Rest, Abstained –Kappler, Martuscello

Passed

36. Kappler moved that the Conflict of Interest Committee is established in the department of the President. The committee will act as liaison to NCC members regarding Conflict of Interest questions. The committee will prepare, distribute and collect signed forms from members and assist the secretary in establishing a permanent file.

2nd by Hay

For – Folsom, Hay, Abstained- Kappler, Warner, Opposed – Rest

Failed

37. Addis moved _____ and _____ be representatives to 2007 NSS Convention.

2nd by Kappler

Warner moved to postpone until June meeting and to advertise the positions.

2nd by Youngbaer

For – Rest, Abstained – Chu

Passed

Postponed until June meeting

38. Informational Point: The Officers will conduct an Executive Committee meeting on Saturday, April 21st at Howe Caverns Earth day events at 10am.

39. Addis moved that the next NCC Board meeting will be held on June 9th at 2:00 PM at Speleobooks.

2nd by Youngbaer

Passed unanimously

40. Addis moved to thank the Gallupville House for hosting the meeting.

2nd by Simmons

Passed unanimously

41. Addis moved to adjourn.

2nd by Chu

Passed unanimously

Meeting adjourned at 5:04 PM