

**NORTHEASTERN CAVE CONSERVANCY, INC.**

**Board Minutes**

3/14/2010, Knox, NY 10:00 AM

Meeting called to order at 10:28

1. Introduction and greetings – President Bob Addis
2. Attendance:  
Officers: B. Addis, P. Youngbaer, B. Folsom, C. Hay  
Trustees: M Chu, T. Engel, A. Hicks, V. Kappler, A. Traino (10:56), M. Warner.
3. From Joe Armstrong: I am giving my resignation to the board of the NCC, also my position as property manager of Ella Armstrong Cave.
4. Absent with Proxy
  - Bob Simmons and Peter Haberland – both contacted the Secretary and the Board may fill their seats for the meeting at its discretion.
5. Board action – Emily Davis as proxy for Peter Haberland, Chuck Porter as proxy for Bob Simmons.
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
  - Coordinate Bat Surveys with DEC on NCC/NSS properties. Big thanks to all that helped! Quote from Al Hicks about the work by the cavers.  
"This is yet another example of the great job done by the NCC and affiliates on these surveys. I can sit at my desk and get a real understanding of what is going on at \_\_\_\_\_, and get as good a perspective as could be gained by sending in any of our staff. Atta-boys to all involved once more."
    - Working on facilities/meal for Spring NRO
    - EC minutes – Attachment D
10. Science Committee – Larry Davis – no report
11. Acquisitions Committee Report –Chuck Porter
  - oral at meeting – lots of work done on Merlins – see Attachment A
12. Bylaws Committee Report – Joe Levinson
  - As the chair of the bylaws committee, I have noticed that the last few Bylaws changes have been sent out to the membership without submitting the changes to this committee for review and comments. My suggestion would be to review if this committee is still needed.
13. Publications/Publicity Committee Report - Christa Hay
  - Status quo
14. Fundraising Committee Report - Alan Traino – no report
15. Office Committee Report – Emily Davis / Mike Warner
  - Problems: None  
Progress: Status quo, received call from ice climber looking for information on Merlins. Was informed it is private and gave info for contacting local caving group.  
Plans: Send out rest of dues notes in March

16. Knox Cave Preserve Report –Emily Davis/Jay Siemion
  - Problems: Had planned a bat count the last week in January but high water prevented this.
  - Progress: None- Closed for winter
  - Plans: Complete bat count before the board meeting if possible.
17. Onesquethaw Cave Preserve Report – Thom Engel
  - Not much to report. There has been an increase in visitation this winter as one of the few caves open.
18. Sellecks Karst Preserve Report – Jason Siemion – no report
19. Clarksville Preserve Report – Mike Chu, Thom Engel, Chuck Porter
  - Winter bat count for NYS DEC results: 4 bats counted in the cave, 3 healthy, one with WNS.
20. Bentleys Preserve Report - Jonah Spivak
  - Winter bat count for NYS DEC results: 9 bats no WNS
  - Trail markers already up, need to put up property markers.
21. Ella Armstrong Preserve Report – Open
22. Education Committee Report – David Lyons – no report
  - April 16, Earth day at Clarksville School – need to get the karst model to the school
23. Membership Committee – Open
24. Website Subcommittee Report – Mike Chu
  - No problems to report. Replaced the 30th anniversary banner on front page with Spring NRO promotional banner at the start of 2010.
25. Legal Committee Report – Mark Seltzer - no report
26. Special and Group Use Coordinators –Amy Cox – no report
27. Financial and Investments Committee – Joe Levinson
  - Nothing to report
28. Volunteer Value Committee – Vince Kappler
  - **Progress:** VV totals for 2009: 1440.5 hours of work and 10442 miles driven to/from projects for a total value of \$39,564.00.

**VOLUNTEER VALUE STATS**

	<b>Hours</b>	<b>Miles</b>	<b>Dollar Value</b>
2006	1389.5	20,862	\$29,955.00
2007	1571.5	14,607	\$35,542.00
2008	1680.5	14,143	\$36,926.00
2009	1440.5	10442	\$39,564.00

VV totals to date for 2010: \$2773.00.

The web page to submit hours, [http://www.necaveconservancy.org/add\\_vv.php](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.

I researched the prevailing rates for VV dollar amounts and decided to increase the dollar rate the NCC credits to volunteers to \$25.00 per hour for 2010. The actual rate for our area (NY, NJ, CT, VT and MA) was \$24.32 for 2007. I prefer to stay comfortably under the actual IRS accepted rate in order to minimize any challenges to the data. Unfortunately the IRS business mileage rate has been reduced from .585 to .50 per mile for 2010.

Scott Fee, Combined Federal Campaign coordinator for the NSS, sent an email requesting information on conservation projects cavers worked on. He needed a selection of projects from various regions of the country to complete the application for the NSS to be designated an eligible recipient for federal employee donations. I sent him personnel and hour totals for several NCC projects.

**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

29. Ad hoc Committee – Surprise Cave – Bob Simmons – no report

30. Ad hoc Committee- Tory's Cave – Bob Simmons – no report

31. President resolved the Planned Giving Ad hoc committee.

32. Ad hoc Committee -Merlins Cave - Chuck Porter - see Presidents report

33. 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 Davis

**Passed unanimously**

- Hay -NCC as sponsor at Convention- pick a level on the sponsor form.
- Kappler – how should we handle a memorial donation,
- Folsom – status of NRO- Middle Ages Theme
- Hicks –Discussion on Surprise cave. Bob Simmons needs to send chronology of Surprise Cave items to Al Hicks, cave closing protocol is being re-thought in other parts of country now, continued discussion on this issue with Al and his peers in other departments/states.
- Tentative date of 2010 barn dance – September 25<sup>th</sup> -board meeting next day.
- Engel – Thacher park – state has threatened to close numerous state parks, Thacher park is one of them, Send out where to send letter for the board/members – Thom is going to send me a “form” letter that I can send out to board/members
- Engel -Clarksville cave ladder – what are thoughts on the ladder. Clarksville managers are to make a decision and let the board know.
- Coin drop at Howe Caverns – HHG persuaded HC to reinstate the coin drop money will be going to Rapid Response for WNS (HC (already built a new one) Addis – what can we do with the old coin drop? Traino – mail box at Natural Stone Bridge – Alan will contact

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

2<sup>nd</sup> by Davis

**Passed unanimously**

35. Hay moved to accept the minutes of the December 6, 2009 meeting.

2<sup>nd</sup> by Engel

For –rest Abstained - Hay  
**Passed**

**Bylaw Change motion– All members present vote**

36. Warner moved that Article 3, Membership Section 2, Categories to add Point F – Life Membership. Life membership shall have all rights and privilege of regular members and will receive publications digitally when available. The Board will determine rates.

2<sup>nd</sup> by Traino

**Passed**

37. Kappler moved: Act 23-1 is amended by adding "Life" and "\$300" to the list of memberships and fees. Act 23-1 would then read:

2<sup>nd</sup> by Traino

Warner moved to amend to \$450.

2<sup>nd</sup> by Davis

For – Davis, Warner, Rest- Rest, Abstain –Engel

**Motion Failed**

**Motion voted on as original**

**Passed unanimously**

**Act 23-1**                      Membership Dues    10/6/99

The annual membership dues are as follows:

Regular	\$15
Family	\$ 5
Student	\$10
Benefactor	\$50
Institutional	\$100
<b>Life</b>	<b>\$300</b>

38. Folsom moved that \$10,000 be allocated to the Merlins Fund Fund.

2<sup>nd</sup> by Youngbaer

Substituted motion

Kappler moved that Act 10-71 be amended to read NCC will appropriate \$27,000 of its current general funds towards the purchase of Merlins Cave, to be returned to the general fund if the purchase is unsuccessful.

2<sup>nd</sup> by Traino

**Passed unanimously**

39. Traino moved the Board directs the property managers of Clarksville Preserve to remove the ladder from the ladder dig at the preserve before March 31, 2010.

2<sup>nd</sup> by Hicks

For - Rest    Opposed Kappler Abstained – Chu, Porter, Engel

**Passed**

40. Davis moved that the NCC provide a \$500 sponsorship for the 2010 NSS Convention in a manner to be determined by the NCC Promotional Committee.

2<sup>nd</sup> by Traino

For – rest Abstained Hay

**Passed**

41. Informational Point: Executive Committee meeting will be held May 9<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am at Hay-Addis House.

42. Addis moved that the next NCC Board meeting will be held June 6<sup>th</sup> meeting place to be determined. (Bentleys Area – ribbon cutting etc need to contact Jonah) Ribbon cutting at 10:00 meeting after 1:00 pm  
2<sup>nd</sup> by Chu  
**Passed unanimously**
43. Addis moved to thank Amy & Russ Pokorny for hosting the meeting.  
2<sup>nd</sup> by Youngbaer  
**Passed**
44. Addis moved to thank Joe Armstrong for serving as Trustee and Preserve manager.  
2<sup>nd</sup> by Traino  
**Passed unanimously**
45. Addis moved to adjourn.  
2<sup>nd</sup> by Davis  
**Passed unanimously**

Meeting adjourned at 1:30

#### **Attachment A**

##### President's Report

1. **Bentleys Caverns.** With the donation and closing behind us, newly-appointed Preserve Manager Jonah Spivak is making plans for a workday on the property this spring. Work needs to be done on the trails, parking lot, boundary signage, and the installation of a kiosk. Whether on the same day or not, this spring there will be a formal dedication ceremony with the Bentley's and local officials resulting in another press release. And on July 10, the Rensselaer Land Trust has been invited to visit the Preserve and cave, so please mark your calendars to assist this tour. Acquisitions Chair Chuck Porter and I have opened negotiations with RLT for them to hold a conservation easement on the property, and Chuck will be taking their Executive Director and Acquisitions Chair to get an overview earlier this spring in anticipation of showing their group the Preserve on July 10.
2. **Merlins.** After a long search for an attorney to review the purchase contract, Chuck and I have settled on Christine Young who is also the Executive Director of RLT. We have had a meeting and Christine is drafting our version of the purchase contract to be reviewed by the NCC Executive Committee and submitted to the owner, Michael Belknap. Probably he will have comments and revisions of his own so a period of negotiations has begun. The formal application requires a licensed survey of the property and that is the expense that the NCC will share with Mr. Belknap, 28% +72% respectively. With this pre-application we would present a good draft with our gps survey and make certain that the NCC should engage in the formal survey. Proceeding in this manner, Chuck and I are confident that we can be ready for a June 30 closing. This gives the NCC some time to maximize its fund raising efforts and minimize our borrowed money. Putting in an application for the Bender Family Foundation due date March 15.
3. **NSS 2010 Convention.** Since many NCC members are NSS members and hold dual roles, the NCC along with several other cave conservancies will have a presence at the Convention in Burlington August 2-6 in the form of table displays. The NCC through the energetic efforts of Vice President Peter Youngbaer has taken a prominent role in the White Nose Syndrome problem and Peter is leading the effort to do everything right for a caving convention in the Northeast. Peter has arranged that a full time decon station will be not only available but promoted at convention. The Central Connecticut Grotto will be running a loaner gear program to keep Northeastern gear, possibly contaminated with WNS, in the Northeast. They will be

asking for donations of loaner gear. And Peter has organized a WNS forum to be presented Tuesday night in the community, inviting the locals, scientists, and governmental personnel.

**Attachment B**

Northeastern Cave Conservancy  
Vice President's Report

This quarter has seen the usual Executive Committee activities: Merlins fundraising and reviewing the purchase and sales agreement; monitoring the office activities; planning for the spring NRO (especially how to handle cave visitation and deconning for WNS), and planning for spring board elections.

On the White Nose Syndrome front, I have been overwhelmed. With WNS spreading to two new states (Tennessee and Maryland), and many other sites in Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Virginia, the level of activity and discussion is at an all-time high.

Three items of particular interest for Northeastern cavers re: WNS bear mentioning. First, I was asked by West Virginia's Department of Natural Resources to coordinate a photographic expedition to Hellhole Cave. Thanks to Al Hicks for the referral. About 20 people were directly involved on site, including five from the northeast: Mike Chu (NCC trustee) and Ryan von Linden (NYDEC) (who carpooled down with me), and Chris Beauchamp and Seth Perlman – all good photographers who also helped with the bat count. We had a National Geographic photo team there, too, Stephen Alvarez and Alan Creswell, both long-time NSS members. Local Germany Valley Karst Survey cavers acted as guides (and a couple photographers), and biologists from PA and WVDNR rounded out the crew. This was a joint project of WVDNR, USFWS, and the NSS.

Second, with the NSS convention upcoming here in the northeast, I was approached by USFWS who offered help with setting up the decontamination station and running a workshop. Along with Norm Berg's offer to run a gear loaning function, we aim to be state of the art in terms of WNS clean caving. We will be coordinating this over the remaining time before convention.

Finally, this Saturday (the day before our NCC meeting), Al Hicks and I are the guest speakers on WNS at the Berkshire Museum, in Pittsfield, MA. Kevin Downy presented a slide show. Approximately 155 attendees. Thanks to Mike Telladira for setting up this program where we can educate the public about WNS and the wildlife management and caver efforts underway to address the situation.

Peter Youngbaer  
Vice President

**Attachment C**  
**Treasurer's Report**

March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2010

	<u>Feb 28, 10</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Checking	3,351.59
Money Market	72,941.55
PayPal Checking	182.21
NSF Account	38,849.00
Total Checking/Savings	115,324.35
 Total Current Assets	 115,324.35

1. As of March 1st, the Merlins Cave Fund stood at \$50,996. This does not include the \$10,000 grant rec'd from the Rowe Family Foundation in December 2009.

2. Planning for Spring NRO in support of the Merlins Cave Fund continues. Trustees and Committee Chairs are encouraged to lend a hand.

3. 2010 Budget vs. Actual YTD:

Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual  
January through February 2010

03/03/2010

	<u>Jan - Feb 10</u>	<u>Budget 10</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
Donations	60.00	3,585.00
Donations Restricted		
Merlin's Cave Fund	4,193.40	
Total Donations Restricted	4,193.40	
 Auction Proceeds	 0.00	 1,000.00
Interest Earned	75.08	180.00
Membership	115.00	4,000.00
Promotional Items	0.00	215.00
Total Income	4,443.48	8,980.00
Expense		
Development	0.00	1,200.00
Sponsorships	0.00	100.00
Meeting Expense	0.00	100.00
Acquisitions	0.00	1,000.00
Bank Charges	2.50	15.00
Donations-outgoing	0.00	200.00
Education	0.00	100.00

Executive		
President	0.00	200.00
VP	0.00	100.00
Treasurer	0.00	100.00
Secretary	0.00	100.00
Total Executive	<u>0.00</u>	<u>500.00</u>
Legal Fees	500.00	2,000.00
Licenses & Permits	167.00	150.00
Miscellaneous	0.00	100.00
Office Expense	0.00	100.00
Postage	26.40	200.00
Preserves-Maintenance		
Bentleys	0.00	500.00
Clarksville	0.00	200.00
Ella Armstrong	0.00	1,100.00
Knox	0.00	25.00
Onesquethaw	0.00	25.00
Sellecks	0.00	25.00
Total Preserves-Maintenance	<u>0.00</u>	<u>1,875.00</u>
Promotion/Fundraising		
Other	0.00	500.00
Advertising	0.00	30.00
Printing	0.00	200.00
Promotional Items	0.00	250.00
Total Promotion/Fundraising	<u>0.00</u>	<u>980.00</u>
Publishing		
Website	0.00	60.00
Mailings	0.00	200.00
Total Publishing	<u>0.00</u>	<u>260.00</u>
Taxes on Properties	14.77	100.00
Total Expense	<u>710.67</u>	<u>8,980.00</u>
Net Ordinary Income	3,732.81	0.00
Other Income/Expense		
Other Income		
In Kind donations	0.00	0.00
Volunteer Value	2,773.00	0.00
Total Other Income	<u>2,773.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Other Expense		
In Kind Out	0.00	0.00
Volunteer Value Exp	2,773.00	0.00
Total Other Expense	<u>2,773.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Net Other Income	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Net Income	<u>3,732.81</u>	<u>0.00</u>



Net Gain or Loss from NSF Fund (not reported)	0.00
NET Income after NSF Fund Gain/Loss	3,732.81

**Attachment D**

**EC Meeting**

November 15, 2009

C.T. Male, Latham, NY

Bob, Bill, Peter, Christa, Chuck, Mike Chu, Mike Warner, Emily Davis

Northeast caves calendar – checks will be made out to Steve Millet and then donation to NCC.

Barn Dance – recap - \$1,250.00, good that more non-cavers came. It was a community event. Want to do it next year....need to re-think the price.

Spring NRO – we need to decide if NCC will do it. Last Merlins funding.

Clarksville – interesting email from a person wanting to test deployment. We have answered and they will not be using the property as of now.

End of year fundraising letter – *Bob to write*, one in December asking for money, one in January thanking for all donations.

Bentleys – basically is done and just need to finalize the closing. I need to send out press release. Maybe have the spring NRO there for publicity...maybe Broken Wheel, Petersburg.

ESCOT- Bob to clarify what they can actually do for us; give us some examples on how they helped another non-profit

IRS policy- we will remain a small non-profit so we can continue to use the EZ tax forms. Conflict of Interest – we already have, we just need to say that we have them...they can be very simplified. *Peter will send some motions for the December meeting.*

Board Manual – *I need to send minutes to Vince so he can update.*

Shingle Gully (Ellenville Ice Caves) – The Nature Conservancy – Art Rafferty could not get a permit for visiting the caves/sensitive area. He has asked the NCC to help in this. At the 11/14 survey they found 300-500 bats many with WNS. Once the map is completed the NCC should approach TNC with a professional map (map should be done in the spring) and use this to present to the board and work on a relationship with them. How can we help them manage? BUT we will have an issue with TNC just wanting to close the caves completely after hearing this information.

Officers- we are all going to stay on.

Merlins- \$3000.00 we got approval from the NSF. Bob will get the money in our account now. Bob to send out end of year donation plead.

Grants – Park and Trail Organization – Bill working on this now.

Fields and Ponds grant – this will be the next grant. (there is no deadline for this)