

NORTHEASTERN CAVE CONSERVANCY, INC.

Minutes

June 7, 2009, 1:30 pm Seventh Day Baptist Church Berlin, NY

There was a work day on the Bentleys property before the meeting with 15 volunteers.

Meeting called to order at 1:45

1. Introduction and greetings – President Bob Addis
2. Nominating Committee Chairman Mike Martuscello announces the results of the Trustees' election. The new/returning trustees are seated at this time. – Attachment A-1
3. Thanks to Craig Cantello and David Lyons for their work on the board,
4. Attendance:
Officers: B. Addis, P. Youngbaer, B. Folsom, C. Hay
Trustees: M Chu, T. Engel, P. Haberland, V. Kappler, A. Traino, M. Warner.
5. Absent with Proxy
 - Chris Goodman for Al Hicks
6. Absent without proxy
 - Joe Armstrong – Board votes in Steve Millet for Joe Armstrong
 - Bob Simmons
7. President's Report – Bob Addis- Attachment A
8. Vice President's Report –Peter Youngbaer – Attachment B
9. Treasurer's Report –Bill Folsom - Attachment C
10. Secretary's Report – Christa Hay – Attachment D (EC minutes)
 - Helped out with the Bentley survey, volunteered for several of the areas for the acoustic bat survey for DEC.
 - Electronic vote:
 - Cantello moved to keep Knox, Crossbones and Ella Armstrong closed until the NCC has a policy for WNS-contaminated rope.
 - 2nd by Hay
 - For – Cantello, Against- Rest
 - Failed**
11. Science Committee – Larry Davis – no report
12. Acquisitions Committee Report –Chuck Porter
 - See Bentleys ad hoc committee report
13. Bylaws Committee Report – Joe Levinson
 - I am still missing the minutes from Sep, and Dec 2008. I need these to update the board manual. Otherwise nothing new.
14. Conservation Committee Report - Joe Armstrong – no report
15. Publications/Publicity Committee Report - Christa Hay
 - Status quo
16. Fundraising Committee Report - Alan Traino
 - Matching fundraising with \$1000.00 donation from Mike Chu.
17. Office Committee Report – Emily Davis / Mike Warner

- **Problems:** None
Progress: status quo
Plans: a membership reminder emailing in the next two weeks
18. Knox Cave Preserve Report –Emily Davis/Jay Siemion
 - **Problems:** None
Progress: Amy is working with camps for summer reservations. Jay and I are getting requests for window permits weekly.
Plans: Keep up with emails. We are taking turns doing this.
 19. Onesquethaw Cave Preserve Report – Thom Engel
 - Nothing to report. Since the cave re-opened I have not had any requests to enter.
 20. Sellecks Karst Preserve Report – Jason Siemion
 - Nothing to report
 21. Clarksville Preserve Report – Mike Chu, Thom Engel, Chuck Porter
 - Since the cave re-opened groups have been going in, but not in the numbers I would expect. The oriental bittersweet continues to spread and between the parking area and the kiosk. Fires are still a problem.
 22. Ella Armstrong Preserve Report – Joe Armstrong – no report
 23. Education Committee Report – David Lyons
 - Nothing to report
 24. Membership Committee – open
 25. Website Subcommittee Report – Mike Chu
 - Nothing to report – no problems
 26. Legal Committee Report – Mark Seltzer
 - work with ad hoc planned giving
 27. Special and Group Use Coordinators –Amy Cox – no report
 28. Financial and Investments Committee – Joe Levinson
 - I was forwarded the accounting by Bill Folsom from the foundation. It appears they did a re-balance of our monies. This is typical. Their outlook is not so good, which I would agree with, but in the long term the market does earn between 7% to 8% and this does include major down turns such as the one we are going through right now. As long as the monies are viewed as long term investments, then we have little to worry about.
 29. Volunteer Value Committee – Vince Kappler
 - **Progress:** VV totals so far for 2009: 3232 miles and 418 hours of work for a total value of \$11,793.00.
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.
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
 30. Land Trust – Mike Warner (at the request of the president)
 - I attended the annual Schoharie Land Trust meeting at the Middleburgh public library on May 21. I discussed continued interest in potential partnerships with the SLT in both educational and management areas. Andrew Mason is current President. Board member Louise Johnson is

very active with publicity, community outreach and event planning. They have produce a color sheet promoting "Sundays and Conservation" with open events at various sites. The NCC could potentially participate in a future event hosted at one of our preserves. The potential for future management cooperation at sites with cave & karst features is still current with their existing board.

31. Ad hoc Committee – Surprise Cave – Bob Simmons – no report
32. Ad hoc Committee- Tory's Cave – Bob Simmons – no report
33. Ad hoc Committee -Merlins Cave - Chuck Porter – no report
34. Ad hoc Bentley Cave Preserve Committee – Chuck Porter - Mr. Bentley was present at meeting and introduced.
 - Work day – Mike B, Chuck, Christa and Bill – help with survey in early May. Chuck and Mike set corners May 30. Mike B to complete the map which he should be able to do this coming week. The next Berlin planning board meeting is scheduled for June 25 at 6pm. Chuck will go to that to get the survey approved and stamped. Jonas Spivac is inline for property manager.
35. Ad hoc for Planned Giving – Bill Folsom (Chair), Youngbaer, Seltzer, Traino
 - After emailing a draft of proposed language to add to the NCC's Donation webpage to the committee members for their input on 3/19 (no response other than Peter Youngbaer who thought it looked fine but deferred to the Legal Committee Chair's input), a follow-up email was sent on 5/21
36. Ad hoc committee- 30th Anniversary – Bob Addis
 - Possible picnic at VanHornesville
37. Ad hoc Committee – Conservation Chair Duties – Bob Simmons – no report
38. Addis moved to open the Committee of the Whole. The Vice President will preside. Items can be entered as new business.
 - 2nd by Kappler
 - Passed unanimously**
 - Bylaw change for voting – what to do in a tie- V. Kappler will research the NSS and how they handle it.
 - Cantello – rope decon discussion
 - Youngbaer discussed his role in the congressional hearings for WNS.
 - Steve Millet – MA F&W would like cleanup of Chester Mine but MA will probably follow Feds which means will need to wait to do this.
 - Traino – conservation committee issue – what has been going on? Nothing on the ad hoc committee.
 - Nominating chair – need to make the June meeting later in the month. Need more time between NRO and meeting.
39. Engel moved to close the Committee of the Whole.
 - 2nd by Folsom
 - Passed unanimously**
40. Hay moved to accept the minutes of the March 29, 2009 meeting.
 - 2nd by Traino
 - For- rest Abstained- Hay, Traino, Haberland, Goodman
 - Passed**
41. Kappler moved Christa Hay and Robert Addis are appointed the NCC representatives to the 2009 NSS Convention and International Congress, Kerrville, TX with authority to appoint a proxy if there is a conflict. The designees will make a report to the NCC at the fall meeting on the conservation sessions attended.
 - 2nd by Traino
 - Passed unanimously**

42. Informational Point: New Fed regulations on 990 - Vince Kappler will get wording and send to board.
43. Informational Point: Executive committee meeting will be held August 29, 2009 at 11:00am in Cohoes, NY.
44. Addis moved that the next NCC Board meeting will be held September 20, 2009 at 10:00am at Sam's Point, NY.
2nd by Traino
For – Rest Abstained – Millet
Passed
45. Addis moved to thank the Baptist Church for the meeting space and to Chuck Porter for setting up the meeting.
2nd by Hay
Passed unanimously
46. Addis moved to adjourn.
2nd by Engel
Passed unanimously

Meeting adjourned at 3:45