

NORTHEASTERN CAVE CONSERVANCY, INC.
Board Minutes

6/15/08 Manchester, VT 11:00 AM

Meeting called to order at 11:12

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.

To The Board:

Since the last Board Meeting in May, there has been an election held for the three open Board of Trustee positions. Each of these positions is for a three year term. The winners of the election have been notified prior to this meeting, and are as follows:

Mike Chu (returning)
Vince Kappler (returning)
Bob Simmons (returning)

I would like to thank the candidates for their participation in this election.

Sincerely,
Mike Martuscello

3. Attendance:
Officers: B. Addis, P. Youngbaer, B. Folsom, C. Hay
Trustees: J. Armstrong, M Chu, P. Haberland, V. Kappler, B. Simmons, M. Warner.
4. Absent without proxy:
 - J. Siemion, D. Lyons, A. Hicks,
5. President's Report – Bob Addis- Attachment A (at end of minutes)
6. Vice President's Report –Peter Youngbaer
 - report on WNS activities – materials at meeting
 - bats that are out and about are damaged, wings are damaged, dry and brittle, white splotches, they had hoped bats would be healthy but the evidence does not show that. Fungal find- it survives the cold. Lab tests on this fungus- very large amount of lab work had been completed. Fall surveys might not have been good for base line data. Thinking will be to wait until they go into hibernation to conduct surveys this fall. People in other parts of country are very concerned about spreading to other areas. Possibility of cave closure – mainly hibernaculums. Decontamination procedures-
7. Treasurer's Report –Bill Folsom - Attachment B
8. Secretary's Report – Christa Hay
 - Attended Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy annual banquet
 - Working on getting some back issues finished: Onesquethaw changing area, cleanup at Paul and Al's (end of July), cleanup of on-line database, more to come as I go thru past minutes and notes.
 - Summary of EC board meeting – Attachment C
 - Electronic Vote:
Youngbaer moved that \$250 of the White Nose funds donated by individuals to the NCC via Jonah Spivak for any White Nose-related purpose be used to cosponsor the June 9-11 science strategy conference in Albany on White Nose Syndrome.
2nd by Simmons
For - rest, No response- Armstrong
Motion Passed

NCC was listed as a sponsor at the conference

9. Science Committee – Larry Davis – no report
10. Acquisitions Committee Report –Chuck Porter
 - Merlins – fundraising going slow. Seem to be spinning our wheels right now.
 - Folsom working on a BCI grant right now. Craig Cantello is also working on 4 grants.
11. Bylaws Committee Report – Joe Levinson
 - nothing to report
12. Conservation Committee Report - Joe Armstrong
 - Removed data loggers from Knox cave.
 - During the DEC bat count at Knox only saw one WNS bat past the Gunbarrel out of approx. 300 in the entire cave.
13. Publications/Publicity Committee Report - Christa Hay
 - Sent out Peters press release on the opening of our preserves
 - Status quo
14. Fundraising Committee Report - Alan Traino – no report
15. Office Committee Report – Emily Davis / Mike Warner
 - *Problems:* None
 - *Progress:* Got the special use letter out to 85 groups. Some (aprox 20) had to be by mail. We asked for response from the letter. I have received about 60 to date. I plan to provide the list of those that have "read and respond" to the Clarksville managers.
 - *Plans:* keep things status quo.
16. Knox Cave Preserve Report –Emily Davis/Jay Siemion
 - *Problems* none
 - *Plans:* Have not completed the property markers. Hope to get this done at some point this summer.
 - *Progress:* Working with Special Use on the schedule for summer use.
17. Onesquethaw Cave Preserve Report – Thom Engel - no report
18. Sellecks Karst Preserve Report – Jason Siemion – no report
19. Clarksville Preserve Report – Mike Chu, Thom Engel, Chuck Porter- no report
20. Ella Armstrong Preserve Report – Joe Armstrong
 - Checked for WNS and saw no evidence.
21. Education Committee Report – David Lyons
 - Nothing to report.
22. Membership Report – Sean Ryan – no report
23. Website Subcommittee Report – Mike Chu
 - no problems to report, working on the formatting of the board member bio page
24. Land Trust Liaison Committee Report – Jon Allison – no report
25. Legal Committee Report – Mark Seltzer – no report
 - asked to check into if we need to have a survey complete before signing a purchase contract
26. Special and Group Use Coordinators –Amy Cox
 - Reservations for summer use starting arriving quickly after the mailing of group use information in late April. The first group visited Clarksville on May 16th.

The letter prompted a number of camps to contact the group use coordinator sooner than they have in previous summers. There are currently 10 days in July/August that are full with 4 or

more groups scheduled. May 31 was also filled. Three other days have 3 groups scheduled. There are still several summer camps that have yet to place reservations.

Reservations for Schoharie, Gage, Onesquethaw and Knox have been light.

Below is a breakout of current reservations for Clarksville. There are 5 reservations for post-October 15th. Those groups know that cave access is tentative.

Clarksville Usage Summary Prospective data as of June 10, 2008							
Month	BSA/GSA	University	School	Other	Pay	Town/County	Camp
Mar-08							
Apr-08							
May-08			4		5		
Jun-08	1		3	1	4		1
Jul-08			4		11		39
Aug-08		2			9		19
Sep-08			1		1		
Oct-08			2				
Nov-08			3				
Dec-08							

27. Financial and Investments Committee – Joe Levinson

- nothing to report

28. Volunteer Value Committee – Vince Kappler

- *Progress:* VV totals to date for 2008: 269 hours of work for a total value of \$6882.00. These totals are lagging somewhat behind previous years'. I encourage all Officers, Committee Chairs and Property Managers to set an example for the general membership by making a special effort to record the time they contribute to the NCC. The web page to submit hours, http://www.necaveconservancy.org/add_vv.php is very easy to use and provides a painless way to record your time and travel.
- *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

- As of 6/12/08, I have not heard anything new from Pat Vissering on our AANR application. Cave permits went out this year as usual, included a WNS flyer requested by PLV and incorporated one of our recommendations: changing from key to combination lock. Under New Business: Want to schedule a work/clean up day at Surprise mid-summer.

30. Ad hoc Committee- Tory's Cave – Bob Simmons

- Have discussed WNS issue with our contact at Land Trust over spring. Cave was closed for a short while, now reopened. Visitation project continues (interim report from Norm). First draft of Management Plan and MOU concerning management in furtherance of property transfer is to be distributed to Board/EC for review and comment.

31. Ad hoc Committee -Merlins Cave - Chuck Porter – no report.

- Difficult to promote without a good map of the cave. Limited number of people that have been in it. Hard to tap into the other source of fundraising- day hikers etc in the

32. Addis moved to open the Committee of the Whole. The Vice President will preside. Items can be entered as new business.
2nd by Kappler
For – all
Passed
- Concern about fundraising – asking to step it up or replacement. Need to get
 - Kappler – membership – how is it going for renewal.
 - Warner – fund that cuts thru the red tape for WNS
 - Maybe setup no-interest loans paid back to members.
33. Youngbaer moved to close the Committee of the Whole.
2nd by Armstrong
For – rest
Passed
34. Hay moved to accept the minutes of the March 30, 2008 meeting.
2nd by Kappler
For-Rest Abstained- Hay
Passed
35. Kappler moved that the President will appoint a representative to attend the Cave Conservation and Management Sessions of the 2008 NSS Convention. _____ will report on the sessions at the fall NCC meeting and will submit Volunteer Value data (mileage, drive time, time at sessions) to the VV Committee.
2nd by Hay
For -
- Kappler moves to amend to::
Kappler moved that the President will appoint a representative to attend the Cave Conservation and Management Sessions of the 2008 NSS Convention. The representative will report on the sessions at the fall NCC meeting and will submit Volunteer Value data (mileage, drive time, time at sessions) to the VV Committee.
2nd by Chu
For all
Amended motion passed
- Motion as amended
For- all
Passed
36. Simmons moved to hold a work day at Surprise cave on _____ to work on graffiti removal, trail work etc.
2nd by Kappler
For- all
Passed
- Vote for July 26th for date
For – rest, Abstained – Folsom, Hay
Passed
37. Addis moved that the next NCC Board meeting will be held on September 21, 2008 10:00am at the Gallupville house.
2nd by Youngbaer
For – all
Passed
38. Informational Point: Executive committee meeting will be held on August 17, 2008 in Kerhonkson at 11:am.

39. Addis moved to thank the Maple St School for the use of their building for the meeting.
2nd by Armstrong
For – all
Passed

40. Addis moved to adjourn.
2nd by Armstrong
For all
Passed

Meeting adjourned at 12:55

Attachment A
PRESIDENT'S REPORT
6/10/08

1. Merlins Cave, Columbia Co., NY Three important steps are underway: fund raising has begun, the Acquisitions Chair and myself are drafting a purchase contract, and our Treasurer has taken several important steps towards boosting our fund raising and launching into grant writing. The NCC is starting its largest acquisition to date and the movement towards fund raising via grants is a major leap forward for us.

Related issues include analysis of the winter bat survey and more local community involvement. The Acquisitions Committee is in the process of scheduling a public lecture with the Canaan Historical Society to talk about the discovery of Merlins, the cave itself and the NCC plans for it. This should result in good public relations and possible local assistance, both financial and other.

2. Spring 08 NRO Auction. WE announced that the proceeds of the auction would go towards Merlins and we raised over \$500 on the auction and an additional \$160 in donations. Other donations designated for Merlins have been and will continue to come in.
3. Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy Annual Banquet. On May 14, Christa Hay, Chuck Porter and I attended this and networked the crowd. MHLC is our "landlord" for Onesquethaw Cave and talking with their leaders can only have positive and long-reaching effects. For example, we have been recently asked by their president to give a presentation on caves in September.
4. Carlisle Karst Tour. Mike Chu and I led nearly 40 people on a driving tour of the caves and karst of the Town of Carlisle on June 1. It was sponsored by the Carlisle Historical Society and they once again expressed their appreciation of the NCC contribution of a sizable chapter in their bicentennial book on caves last year. Thanks to Chuck Porter and Jay Siemion for that! We stopped at McFails, Doc Shauls Resurgence, road stop at Barracks Zourie and ended at Sellecks.
From this tour the NCC has been invited on a hike up privately-owned Barracks Zourie in the near future, a view not to be missed! As always with these public gatherings, we get inquiries, sometimes cave leads and permission/invites, and interest in our program of cleaning up sinkholes.
5. Clarksville Heritage Days, August 2. Stop by and support the firemen's breakfast, car show, and later a chicken BBQ if you are caving in the area that day. Other events are planned and the NCC probably will have some presence (poster, surface tour?). We have again taken out an ad in their promotion booklet.
6. White Nose Syndrome. Peter Youngbaer has been extremely busy in the task of liaison for the cavers with the researchers and he has been assisted by Mike Warner. The continual updates and links on our website speak to their efforts.

Attachment B
Treasurer's Report

	<u>May 31, 08</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Checking	1,399.92
Money Market	21,723.39
PayPal Checking	25.83
NSF Account (3/31/08 balance)	<u>43,924.00</u>
Total Checking/Savings	<u>67,073.14</u>
 Total Current Assets	 <u>67,073.14</u>

2007 federal income tax returns were filed before the May 15th deadline. Copies were distributed to the Board.

Note that our funds invested with the National Speleological Foundation are down \$2,637 for the 1st quarter of 2008, following the trend of the market, though still up 8.35% year to year. Also note that the above figures do not include the most recent bank deposit that includes income from NRO. Including the 6/4 deposit gives the NCC total current assets of \$69,936.91.

Fundraising for Merlins Cave is moving along slowly. We currently have \$1,100 in the Merlins Cave Fund. On March 27th, Bob Addis, Chuck Porter and I attended a very fruitful meeting with Tom Crowell and Tony Colyer-Pendas of the Columbia Land Conservancy, which will be receiving the conservation easement from the NCC following the closing on the property. The CLC folks gave us several good leads on grant funding, as well as forwarded a motion to their board to decrease the costs of completing the easement. The portion the CLC voted to forgive may be used towards other matching grants totals.

In following up on some of the aforementioned grant funding sources, it was discovered that the NCC was not an officially recognized New York State Charity. I have submitted the necessary application and check for \$25, and we are now pending the state's approval. To apply for any state grants, including federal grants managed by the State of NY, we must have our Charity Bureau Registration number in hand.

I also did my share of networking with other local land conservancies recently, attending both the annual meeting of the Rondout Esopus Land Conservancy (they would take the easement on Pompeys if/when this purchase moves forward), as well as the Columbia Land Conservancy's annual bbq where I happened to meet the owners of Indian Oven Cave. Increasing our visibility with regional land conservancies is an important key to our future growth as an all-volunteer organization.

	<u>Jan - May 08</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
Donations	794.98	6,200.00
Donations Restricted	0.00	6,340.00
Interest Earned	158.55	200.00
Membership	1,525.00	2,910.00
Promotional Items	0.00	200.00
Total Income	<u>2,478.53</u>	<u>15,850.00</u>
Expense		
Reconciliation Discrepancies	0.00	
Sponsorships	70.00	
Meeting Expense	25.00	
Acquisitions	0.00	1,000.00
Bank Charges	5.00	
Conservation	5.99	300.00
Donations-outgoing	250.00	200.00
Education	70.00	150.00
Executive		
President	0.00	200.00
VP	0.00	50.00
Treasurer	0.00	400.00
Secretary	0.00	50.00
Total Executive	<u>0.00</u>	<u>700.00</u>
Legal Fees	0.00	2,000.00
Legal Beckers	1,100.48	6,340.00
Licenses & Permits	34.98	
Miscellaneous	35.00	100.00
Office Expense	363.99	150.00
Postage	41.00	
Preserves-Maintenance		
Clarksville	0.00	900.00
Ella Armstrong	0.00	1,100.00
Knox	0.00	175.00
Onesquethaw	0.00	250.00
Sellecks	0.00	225.00
Total Preserves-Maintenance	<u>0.00</u>	<u>2,650.00</u>
Promotion/Fundraising	0.00	900.00
Publishing		
Website	0.00	120.00
Mailings	0.00	300.00
Total Publishing	<u>0.00</u>	<u>420.00</u>
Total Expense	<u>2,001.44</u>	<u>14,910.00</u>
Net Ordinary Income	477.09	940.00
Other Income/Expense		
Other Income		
Volunteer Value	6,882.00	
Net Gain or Loss from NSF Fund	<u>-2,637.00</u>	
Total Other Income	4,245.00	
Other Expense		
Volunteer Value Exp	<u>6,882.00</u>	
Total Other Expense	<u>6,882.00</u>	
Net Other Income	<u>-2,637.00</u>	
Net Income	<u><u>-2,159.91</u></u>	<u><u>940.00</u></u>

Attachment C
EC Minutes -5/16/08

Bob, Peter, Bill, Christa, David Lyon, Mike Chu, Chuck Porter, Craig Cantello, Alan Tranio

- Discussion on the MHLC banquet. Chuck, Bob, Christa Attended
- Roundout Espous Land Conservancy – Bill attended, informal meeting, easement discussion, talked to secretary, they will discuss easement on Pompeys.
- WNS – announcement went out that caves are open, NSS as well Chuck Porter took down the signs,
- Electronic vote for science conference passed.
- Merlins potential hibernaculum will hopefully help us with fundraising...Indiana bats even better
- Science conference – 3 day, June 9-11, invitation only conference, two tracks, science and administration Peter has been invited, no registration fee, at clarion off evert road- WNS is the main topic, most current result and hyposthis,
- VanFliets – gravel for Ella Armstrong
- Merlins fund raising – how is it going. Status coming back from state for , grant deadlines propbably money for the purchase would be next week. Contract written from Belknap Money from BZF – Clair contacted Bill for mailing check. CLC gave us a good deal. Usually cost \$60K working with them we are only having to pay \$2500.
- USCC – follow up needed
- Beckers – no news from the judge. Bob will follow up. Info on grant CCV/CCF they are only giving to education. We have the money for Beckers when the time comes.
- September meeting will have to discuss what we plan on doing with our caves.
- Christa to contact Jeff D. about coin drop.
- Bill – taxes taken care of. Ayzha helped. Submitted. Ayzha suggests that we start collecting sales tax. Have not yet received NSF report yet.
- Need membership Advertise again that we need a membership chair.
- Several agencies using WNS to get land closed so to stop logging.
- Annual banquet – early discussion, maybe late February, silent auction
- We have a possibility of paying for grant writing in the future.
- Have to register with the NYS charities bureau to even be able to apply for grants.
- Election – Mike – sent out announcement – Chu will rerun- Kappler and Simmons – are the three that are up for reelection but no one has responded to his email – these are all three years
- Clarksville heritage day ad- \$30 for publicity.
- Thom Engle – decontamination flyers. Or poster