

**NORTHEASTERN CAVE CONSERVANCY, INC.**  
**Board Minutes**

9/21/08 Gallupville, NY 10:00 AM

Meeting called to order at 10:20

1. Introduction and greetings – President Bob Addis
2. Attendance:  
Officers: B. Addis, P. Youngbaer, B. Folsom, C. Hay  
Trustees: J. Armstrong, M Chu, P. Haberland, A. Hicks, V. Kappler, B. Simmons.
3. Absent with Proxy
  - Chuck Porter for Jay Siemion
  - Amy Cox
4. Absent without proxy
  - D. Lyons
5. Addis moved to go into executive session 10:21  
2<sup>nd</sup> by ??  
For –rest; Abstained – Armstrong (left discussion)  
**Passed**  
  
*Not for publication*
6. Porter moved to end executive session 11:12  
2<sup>nd</sup> by Kappler  
For – all  
**Passed unanimously**
7. President's Report – Bob Addis- Attachment A
  - Surprise from President- Group Conservation Report won at the convention....along with a \$100 check.
8. Vice President's Report –Peter Youngbaer – Attachment B
9. Treasurer's Report –Bill Folsom - Attachment C
10. Secretary's Report – Christa Hay
  - Cleanup at Al and Paul's property. Went very well, lots of help, VERY happy landowners.
  - Coordinated the efforts getting the changing station at Onesquethaw done –Art Rafferty worked on the project.
  - OTR – NCC was present on vendor's row. Ordered PureGreen24.
  - NRO – NCC auction –Thanks to Alan Traino, Peter Youngbaer and Bill Folsom, NCC dinner thanks to Vince Kappler and Ed Lucas for helping me, 76 meals served.
  - Summary of EC board meeting – Attachment D
  - Electronic Vote:  
**Motion 1:** Youngbaer moved that the NCC not appeal the ALJ decision on the issue of the effect of blasting on Becker's Cave and the Parsonage Spring, and that the NCC withdraw from the case, and that the NCC pay necessary attorney fees for the review of the ruling and the withdrawal process.  
2<sup>nd</sup> by Hay  
For -Rest, Against - none, Abstained - Armstrong, No Response- Haberland  
**PASSED**  
  
**Motion 2:** Youngbaer moved that the NCC, through its attorney, attempt to negotiate a buffer to protect Becker's Cave and the Spring in exchange for our withdrawal, and that the NCC pay necessary attorney fees for negotiating the buffer.  
2<sup>nd</sup> by Hay  
For - none, Against- Rest, Abstained - Armstrong, No Response - Haberland  
**FAILED**

**MOTION 3:** Addis moves that if a contract is necessary, the NCC enter a contract with the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to do construction of bat gates in three mines in NYS. The NCC will supply volunteer labor and the proceeds of the contract will be treated as a donation to the NCC's General Fund.

2nd by Hay

For – rest, Abstained- Hicks

**PASSED**

11. Science Committee – Larry Davis – no report
  - report from A. Hicks at meeting on the data loggers in Knox, Schoharie, Gage –conclusion: no remarkable sites
12. Acquisitions Committee Report –Chuck Porter
  - We still need to sign a purchase contract for Merlins Cave and arrange for a land survey. One quote was for \$9675. Others at today's meeting will report on the current status of fund raising.
  - Mike Bourgeois has volunteered to do the land survey for Bentleys Cave, probably in October. The owners are most gracious to donate this property to us, along with nearby Dry Valley Cave. We expect to have an easement parking area (like McFails) and develop trails from there to the caves. Total costs should be very low.
13. Bylaws Committee Report – Joe Levinson
  - Will be working on updating the Board Manual.
14. Conservation Committee Report - Joe Armstrong – no report
15. Publications/Publicity Committee Report - Christa Hay
  - Status quo
16. Fundraising Committee Report - Alan Traino – no report
17. Office Committee Report – Emily Davis / Mike Warner
  - Status quo
18. Knox Cave Preserve Report –Emily Davis/Jay Siemion
  - Status Quo. Still trying to find time to put up the boundary markers.
  - Preserve Management Plan review: no change
19. Onesquethaw Cave Preserve Report – Thom Engel -
  - The changing area is going up. Art Rafferty of NNJG has been working on it. Bob Addis led a trip for MHLIC, the owners, into the cave.

I met our new neighbor who has bought the land immediately south of the preserve. He will eventually build a house there. He pointed out a sink on his property only about 50 feet from our SW corner. He has been told that people have been dump stuff in the sink and it keeps subsiding. Indeed it is full of cinder blocks and out C&D debris. I suggested that NCC might be interesting in cleaning out the sink. He seemed receptive to the idea.
  - Management Plan Review: no change
20. Sellecks Karst Preserve Report – Jason Siemion
  - Trying to find time to deal with the Sellecks logging issue
21. Clarksville Preserve Report – Mike Chu, Thom Engel, Chuck Porter
  - Status quo
  - Mike - I'll be putting up new/replacement trail markers at Clarksville sometime this week. I saw some graffiti in cave in the lake room earlier this month. It was pretty faint so might be old. Did not notice any elsewhere in cave.
  - Clarksville visitation report Attachment E - let Norm know that we would like to continue and also in some other caves...Emily would like Knox
22. Ella Armstrong Preserve Report – Joe Armstrong –no report

23. Education Committee Report – David Lyons
  - Nothing to report
24. Membership Report – Sean Ryan – no report - advertise this position
25. Website Subcommittee Report – Mike Chu
  - No problems to report.
  - Made slight changes to website including: -moving Newsletters and Minutes onto their own pages, linked off the left column on the news page, added Merlin's fundraising/info page, updated bio page with new version
26. Land Trust Liaison Committee Report – Jon Allison
  - As a land trust liaison report I would like to announce that I am stepping down. I have done very little with this lately and had been planning on stepping down once the Clarksville easement was settled. Since MHLC is clearly not interested in the easement, this will never complete. I hope you can find someone to put more energy into this.
27. Legal Committee Report – Mark Seltzer – no report
28. Special and Group Use Coordinators –Amy Cox – Attachment F
29. Financial and Investments Committee – Joe Levinson
  - Attended the NSF Meeting at convention, otherwise status quo
30. Volunteer Value Committee – Vince Kappler
  - *Progress:* VV totals to date for 2008: 487 hours of work for a total value of \$9975.00. These totals are lagging somewhat behind previous years'. The IRS increased the business mileage rate to \$.585 per mile on July 1, therefore miles driven by members since then have increased our VV dollar total. 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](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
31. Ad hoc Committee – Surprise Cave – Bob Simmons
  - Latest update from Pat Vissering at NYS DEC (9/15/08). Pat has received the AANR Application back from her boss with out substantial comment. Pat indicates that there are some changes necessary to the application language necessary to conform to state law/procedures and that she anticipates having all comments/corrections completed and back to us by early November. That being accomplished, we should have the agreement in place by the end of the year. No further action by NCC apparently needed at this time.– no report
32. Ad hoc Committee- Tory's Cave – Bob Simmons
  - trying to get together this coming week to iron things out
33. Ad hoc Committee -Merlins Cave - Chuck Porter – see Acquisitions report.
34. 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 Folsom
  - Martecello - Website – hard to find info on visiting caves – Mike and Amy will work on this
  - International post camp -
  - Cave Access for WNS—al hick stated we should do site by site not state-wide, Schoharie, Knox, Gage, and Hailes should be closed. Ella Armstrong and Crossbones as well. Might want to change the date to Oct 1. Decontamination should still continue especially from dirty sites to clean sites – especially out of town trips. Studies by Boston University – many animals collected this past year. Initial conversations with NOVA to get major photos of all the bat hibernaculum's in the state.

- DEC with help from NCC did some temporary cave gatings
- Land trust liaison – should abolish this and put under the President.
- Cave banquet – spring 2009 – 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary affair – key note speaker(need a good one)
- Minutes – they should not go out to the public until approved.
- Thatcher Park Day – D.Lyons will be there with karst model

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

2<sup>nd</sup> by Hicks

For – all

**Passed unanimously**

36. Hay moved to accept the minutes of the June 15, 2008 meeting.

2<sup>nd</sup> Chu

For – rest Abstained – Hay

**Passed**

37. Hicks moved that Knox, Ella Armstrong and Crossbones close October 1, 2008 thru May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

2<sup>nd</sup> by Folsom

For – all

**Passed unanimously**

38. Youngbaer moved that the function of the land trust liaison committee is hereby abolished and the functions of the committee shall be under the Presidents responsibilities.

2<sup>nd</sup> by Simmons

For – all

**Passed unanimously**

39. Folsom moved to thank Jon Allison to thank him for his years of work as Land Trust Liaison.

2<sup>nd</sup> by Youngbaer

For – all

**Passed unanimously**

40. Youngbaer moved that the NNC shall accept \$500 from Speleobooks to place an ad on our website running no longer than 12months. The Board will apply these proceeds to the Merlins fund.

2<sup>nd</sup> by Folsom

For – rest; Against - Simmons, Armstrong; Abstained – Cox, Haberland

**Passed**

41. Informational Point: Executive committee meeting will be November 9, 2008 11:00 in Cohoes.

42. Addis moved that the next NCC Board meeting will be held on December 7, 2008 at 10:00 at Speleobooks

2<sup>nd</sup> by Simmons

For – all

**Passed unanimously**

43. Addis moved to thank the Gallupville House for the use of their building for the meeting.

2<sup>nd</sup> by Armstrong

For - all

**Passed unanimously**

44. Addis moved to adjourn.

2<sup>nd</sup> Hay

For- all

**Passed unanimously**

Meeting adjourned at 1:48