

NORTHEASTERN CAVE CONSERVANCY, INC.

Minutes

October 3, 2010, 10:00 am Snyder Estate, Rosendale, NY

SET UP Preserve management reviews

Meeting called to order at 10:07

Gale Grunade from the historic society – introduction.

1. Introduction and greetings – President Bob Addis
2. Attendance:
Officers: B. Addis, P. Youngbaer, B. Folsom, C. Hay
Trustees: M Chu, K. Dumont, T. Engel, A. Hicks, V. Kappler, B. Simmons, A. Traino, M. Warner, P. Woodell,
3. Thanks to Jay Siemion for his years of work as the manager of Sellecks Cave Preserve and member of the Knox Cave Preserve Committee.
4. Thanks to David Lyons for his time as Education Committee Chair.
5. Absent without proxy - Mike Warner
6. Board votes Donna Stanley as proxy for Mike Warner
7. President's Report – Bob Addis- Attachment A
 - NCC was at the Eastern Mountain Sports –Thom Engel took the NCC display and collected \$95 as donations thru the stores donation policy.
8. Vice President's Report –Peter Youngbaer – Attachment B
9. Treasurer's Report –Bill Folsom - Attachment C
10. Secretary's Report – Christa Hay
 - Correspondence for president
 - NCC – hosted wine/cheese party at NSS convention
 - EC minutes are in Attachment D
11. Science Committee – Larry Davis
12. Acquisitions Committee Report –Chuck Porter
 - see presidents report for Merlins
13. Bylaws Committee Report – Joe Levinson
 - Vince and I were going to talk about the bylaws change at convention but that never happened, and we still need to work on the proposed change. I would still like to see the time line for the election in the bylaw.
14. Publications/Publicity Committee Report - Christa Hay
 - Status quo
15. Fundraising Committee Report - Alan Traino
 - Fall NRO - \$1000.00 from NCC auction – 84 attendees
16. Office Committee Report – Emily Davis / Mike Warner
 - **Problems:** None
 - Progress:** Worked with Amy to more of Special Use online. Up to date on dues notices, kept up with OTR and NRO paperwork. Answered several emails about fall caving.
 - Plans:** Work with Donna on the membership system and turn it over to her.
17. Knox Cave Preserve Report –Emily Davis
 - **Problems:** It was reported that a formation had damage. I have not had the time to go into the cave to see where/if the damage is and if it is new.
 - Progress:** Checked trail and entrance, picked up trash
 - Plans:** Discussed the boarder tags with Jay. We still have plans to get them up after the leaves fall.
18. Onesquethaw Cave Preserve Report – Thom Engel

- Trips have been going in. There was an incident a few weeks ago where someone was beating on the rocks around the entrance with what may have been a sledgehammer. Corn has been cut recently so the cave is in open view.
19. Sellecks Karst Preserve Report – Open
 20. Clarksville Preserve Report – Mike Chu, Thom Engel, Chuck Porter
 - Last few weeks things have been quiet. We have had problems on Saturday nights with parties in the cave and some incidents in the upper parking area, especially a few cases of what appeared to be human excrement. More disturbing were a couple of incidents in July when someone rolled a large rock into the Ward entrance. Since no one was in the cave at the time, this was not serious. However, the Albany Co. Sheriff's patrol was contacted and asked to keep an eye for vehicles at the cave at odd times.
 - After the leaves are gone we should schedule a workday to re-clear the trail on our property from our parking/changing area to the kiosk. Also clean out the parking area and build a sturdy fence across the north end of same.
 21. Bentleys Preserve Report - Jonah Spivak
 22. Ella Armstrong Preserve – Alan Traino
 - All maintenance is done and I am waiting to hear back from Ken Fortune about the parking area.
 - DPW said the work will be free since we are a not-for-profit
 23. Education Committee Report – open
 24. Membership Committee – open
 25. Website Subcommittee Report – Mike Chu
 - Status quo
 26. Legal Committee Report – Mark Seltzer
 - Board need to find a volunteer for this position at Mark's request.
 27. Special and Group Use Coordinators –Amy Cox
 - Thanks to Emily for help this year. Will have a report at the December meeting. Anyone looking for specific data for the report please contact Amy.
 - Boy Scouts have changed their rules so only boys 14 and up can go caving. There was some confusion with the scouts concerning the change since there were two documents with conflicting information.
 28. Financial and Investments Committee – Joe Levinson
 - Nothing to report
 29. Volunteer Value Committee – Vince Kappler
 - **Progress:** VV totals so far for 2010: 634 hours of work and 5451 miles drive time to/from projects for a total value of \$2795.00. 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. Ad hoc Committee – Surprise Cave – Bob Simmons
 - I received a call from Ted Kerpetz, NY DEC concerning the NCC AANR application for Surprise Cave. He wanted to be sure that we were still interested despite the cave being closed. I responded that we were, and in particular that we were concerned about the gate, the ongoing lack of security and the impact to the surviving bat populations. I noted there were a number of projects and ongoing activity that was appropriate, even with the cave closed, including gate repair and monitoring, trail relocation, assistance with scientific studies, etc. Also, that someday, we presume that the cave will reopen once WNS has been solved and/or human visitation is absolved from blame, etc.

He promised that they would be reviewing our application shortly and we should be hearing something back in the next several weeks. His tone was very friendly and apologetic for this having taken so long.
 - As of this meeting there has not been the call back form Ted K.
 - Bob will call in a week from this meeting.
 31. Ad hoc Committee- Tory's Cave – Bob Simmons
 - Waiting now due to issues with the land trust

32. Ad hoc Committee -Merlins Cave - Chuck Porter

33. Addis moved to open the Committee of the Whole. The Vice President will preside. Items can be entered as new business.

2nd by Traino

Passed Unanimously

- Barn Dance – working on getting the word out more now. I will send “ad” to Altamont Enterprise. I need to bring raffle tickets.
- Engel - We have noticed that there is some inconsistency in the amount we get for insurance certificates when we are named as additionally insured. Generally it is \$1 million, but it is also as little as \$100,000. I would like to discuss whether the NCC should have a policy or a rule regarding the amount.
- Engel –DEC could list several species of bat as endangered in the next year or so and the NCC should start to consider have to deal with this now. Wisconsin has just recently added long eared bats to the threatened species list
- Addis - Sustaining" class of membership like the NSS has. You pay \$100 + \$15 dues for two years then the final \$100 due.
- Motion for \$500 to convention - recommendation and then move to rescind our prior action – will put an informational note why we did not.
- Folsom - with a good convention behind us maybe time to re-approach the NSS about turning over the NSS preserves to the local conservancy...caving group. Discussion – NSS is not all on the same page as to divesting of the properties....maybe just ask about the NE properties only....NSS also looking to maybe have another corporation to take care of the preserves.
- Gail from the historic society - could we approach the mine owner for us to be the “owners” of the mine. The would not be in our mission but also liability would be out the window.
- Hicks- before he left the state they said well if the cave is closed then we don't need the NCC to manage the cave. The cave has people in it so it does need to be addressed. should we at least keep track of local caves etc – spread of WNS. Let people cave locally so they are not spreading the WNS. IF caves are closed then have to travel to cave.

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

2nd by Chu

Passed Unanimously

35. Hay moved to accept the minutes of the June 6, 2010 meeting.

2nd by Engel

For – rest – Against – Traino

Passed

\$8,329.00 update on VV report

36. Kappler moves: Bylaw V.6 is amended to read -

6. Elections. Trustees shall be elected by all eligible members in an election held before the second quarterly meeting. The Board shall establish procedures and timelines to conduct the election.

and Bylaw V.6.a is deleted.

The current Bylaws are:

6. Elections. Elections of Trustees shall be by written ballot sent to eligible members at least three weeks prior to the second quarterly meeting.

a. An election tie shall be broken at the meeting following the election by a written ballot of those current officers, continuing trustees and newly elected trustees, excluding any trustee who is involved in the voting tie.

Passed Unanimously

37. Youngbaer moved the NCC close Knox Preserve and Ella Armstrong Preserve at the end of the day October, 3, 2010.

2nd by Traino

Engel moved to table the motion

Failed to 2nd

Stanley moved to amend to add ...”the caves on....”

Final motion: Youngbaer moved the NCC close the caves on the Knox Preserve and Ella Armstrong Preserve at the end of the day October, 3, 2010.

2nd by Hicks
For –Rest – Against – Engel
Passed

38. Folsom moved Donna Stanley serve as the Chair of the Membership Committee.

2nd by Youngbaer
Passed unanimously

39. Engel moved all certificates of additionally insured naming the NCC, Inc must verify a minimum of \$1 million per incident liability coverage for special use groups caving on the properties.

2nd by Chu
Passed uinanimously

40. Addis moved sustaining membership will lead to life membership by paying a portion of Life dues over a specified period of years while continuing to pay Regular dues annually. The portion and specified period will be determined by the Board of Directors.

2nd by Engel
For Dumont, Engel, Woodell, Stanley Against – Rest
Motion failed

41. Kappler moved Act 23 -1 Life Membership, the life membership dues , Add the phrase in the chart, The life fee may be paid over 3 years in equal installments in addition to paying the Regular dues fee.

2nd by Youngbaer

Traino moves to table this motion until the next board meeting

2nd by Folsom
For – rest Opposed – Youngbaer
Motion is tabled

42. Folsom moved that Traino as the interim preserve manager of the Sellecks Karst Preserve.

2nd by Dumont
Passed unanimously

43. Bob Simmons will serve as the interim nominating chair

2nd by Kappler
For – Rest – Abstained – Simmons
Passed

44. Informational Point: Executive committee meeting will be held November 14th at 10:00am at the Addis-Hay house. Clarksville cleanup on the property on November 13th.

45. Addis moved that the next NCC Board meeting will be held December 5th at 10:00 am at Speleobooks.

2nd by Kappler
Passed unanimously

46. Addis moved to thank the Snyder Estate for hosting the meeting and providing refreshments and to give a donation of \$50.00

2nd by Traino
Passed unanimously

47. Addis moved to adjourn.

2nd by Hay
Passed unanimously

Meeting adjourned at 1:10

Attachment A PRESIDENT'S REEPORT

The NCC has made some significant progress in several directions by taking small steps that seemed routine at first. Since our June 2010 meeting, it has become obvious to me that the NCC presence at caving and community events is very important and that there is a cumulative effect in benefits reaped versus meetings attended.

In chronological order, the NCC had the community-based opening ceremony for Bentleys, a booth at the NSS Convention in Vermont, a booth at the Old Timers Reunion in WV and our presence at the Fall NRO in Mass. Significant donations came in during this period - \$1,000 from Dick Blenz, \$500 from NRO and several individual's generous donations, perhaps more than normal in a recovering (?) economy. I believe the lesson learned here is to keep the NCC presence in front of both our membership and the community in general. I have started calling the NCC "one of the premier cave conservancies in the United States" and I sincerely believe it.

Although the legal research is funded by the NSS, I believe that the NCC will reap many benefits from the current study of cave rights in New York State. I will speak to them in the near future, but suffice it to say that they appear to be very powerful. These conceptions are not new – they date back to the "Cave Wars" around Mammoth Cave, KY in the early 1920's and were wisely captured by the Northeast's caving lawyer friend, the late Jim Gage in the 1950's. These are the cave rights presently under investigation by the NSS.

I am equally encouraged by forthcoming events, particularly the Knox Cave Barn Dance fund raiser. Successful at its conception in 2009, this annual event captures the imagination of the general public and gives us a venue to present information on cave conservation in a recreational/social setting.

Merlins – Chuck Porter, the Acquisitions Chair and I conducted an informational session with the Town of Canaan's Planning Board on 9/20 and accomplished our goal. The Planning Board will allow the owners and the NCC to do a partial land survey of just the property being transferred and not the whole parcel, a significant cost savings. We are presently working on an acceptable parking situation for the parcel; and we will get a walking access into the area.

We are at a point in the fund raising for Merlins where we are lessening the amount of money we have to borrow. We are essentially borrowing from ourselves and paying back likewise since we borrow against our assets held by the national Speleological foundation.

Attachment B Vice President's Report

The past few months since our last meeting have been filled with NSS Convention activities, but now that the Convention has come and gone, like most of you, I've been able to focus more on NCC activities.

I was charged with contacting the TNC folks at Sam's Point about the possibility of holding this meeting there, as we did a year ago. However, it was felt that until we have the completed map of Shingle Gulley ready to present, we should hold off on that. I did speak with Chris Goodman, the cartographer, at the Fall NRO, and he will prioritize this so we can go and present it at an upcoming meeting.

We've had a lot of progress on the Merlins Cave acquisition, and I've participated with the other EC members and Chuck Porter in discussions and strategizing in moving that along.

Similarly, the EC has discussed the potential acquisition of Bensons Cave, which is dependent on the current trustees reaching resolution over the transfer.

One bothersome item for the EC and several of our preserve managers has been a rash of vandalism at several of the preserves. How we respond to those incidents, our communication with local law enforcement, and perhaps with the public in general may be something we need to discuss as a Board.

As VP, I've also been part of the routine office and budget discussions, as well as the recruitment of people to fill some of our vacancies, and the proposed bylaws amendments.

Of course, WNS still remains a huge focus for me. Much of the attention over the summer has been focused in the mid-West and far West. With much land out west owned by federal agencies, the management of caves and mines on those lands by the agencies is a higher profile than in the East. I've participated in numerous conference calls, meetings, and email discussions with cavers and agency personnel working on these issues. Research progress, Congressional funding requests, the Colorado NSS Convention, and many other local or regional WNS items took plenty of my time.

Probably the most significant matter for all of us to pay attention to in the immediate future will be the posting in the Federal Register of a draft WNS National Plan. This was delayed from posting back in June, but is apparently nearing a publication date. All of the affected federal agencies have been working behind the scenes to reach agreement on the draft document. The Federal Register publication will be the time for public input, and it will be critical that we all weigh in at that time. The NCC, as a cave conservancy experienced in dealing with WNS should file formal comments, as I believe they will carry some weight.

Finally, I just returned from a trip to California earlier this week, where I was asked to give two lectures on WNS. Both took place at the USGS facilities in Menlo Park, just south of San Francisco. This is a fascinating place – headquarters for the nation's seismographic research and monitoring. The San Francisco Bay Chapter of the NSS played host. Of specific interest to the NCC would be my visit to the Weller Preserve, location of the Western Cave

Conservancy's Rippled Cave. I spent time in the cave and with officers and members of the WCC, seeing their property and facilities, and discussing their cave conservation activities. I'll talk a little more about this at the meeting.

**Attachment C
Treasurer's Report**

October 3, 2010

	Sep 30, 10
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Checking	1,526.53
Money Market	91,181.45
PayPal Checking	340.13
NSF Account (As of June 30)	37,488.00
Total Checking/Savings	130,536.11
Total Current Assets	\$130,536.11

As of September 30, the Merlins Cave Fund stood at \$70,959.17. Note the Board previously approved a self-loan from our NSF account of an additional \$15,000 for a total allocated of \$85,959.17.

Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual 09/30/2010
January through September 2010

	Jan - Sep 10	Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
Donations		
NRO Donations	4,414.00	
NCC Contributions	0.00	
Auction Donations	1,146.50	1,000.00
Donations - Other	2,893.00	3,585.00
Total Donations	8,453.50	4,585.00
Donations Restricted		
Merlin's Cave Fund	8,632.40	
Total Donations Restricted	8,632.40	
Interest Earned	315.84	180.00
Membership	5,166.00	4,000.00
Promotional Items	0.00	215.00
Total Income	22,567.74	8,980.00
Expense		
NRO Expenses	181.00	
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	7.58	15.00
Donations-outgoing	100.00	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	217.00	150.00
Miscellaneous	0.00	100.00
Office Expense	0.00	100.00
Postage	123.60	200.00
Preserves-Maintenance		
Bentleys	487.80	500.00
Clarksville	0.00	200.00
Ella Armstrong	53.48	1,100.00
Knox	0.00	25.00
Onesquethaw	0.00	25.00
Sellecks	0.00	25.00
Total Preserves-Maintenance	<u>541.28</u>	<u>1,875.00</u>
Promotion/Fundraising		
Other	39.00	500.00
Advertising	30.00	30.00
Printing	0.00	200.00
Promotional Items	461.10	250.00
Total Promotion/Fundraising	<u>530.10</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	161.66	100.00
Total Expense	<u>2,362.22</u>	<u>8,980.00</u>
Net Ordinary Income	20,205.52	0.00
Other Income/Expense		
Other Income		
In Kind donations	0.00	0.00
Volunteer Value	21,320.00	0.00
Total Other Income	<u>21,320.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Other Expense		
In Kind Out	0.00	0.00
Volunteer Value Exp	21,320.00	0.00
Total Other Expense	<u>21,320.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Net Other Income	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Net Income	<u>20,205.52</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Net Gain or Loss from NSF Fund (as of 6/30)	<u>-1,361.00</u>	

NET Income after NSF Fund Gain/Loss

18,844.52