

NORTHEASTERN CAVE CONSERVANCY, INC.

Board Minutes

12/07/2008 Schoharie, NY 10:00 AM

Meeting called to order at 10:28am

1. Introduction and greetings – President Bob Addis
2. Attendance:
Officers: B. Addis, P. Youngbaer, B. Folsom, C. Hay
Trustees: M Chu, A. Hicks, V. Kappler, B. Simmons, M. Warner.
3. Nominating Committee Chairman Mike Martuscello announces the results of the Officers' election search. Oral – no other nominations came from solicitation.
4. Addis moved to convene a meeting of the Trustees to elect Officers. Kappler will preside over the elections as Chairman of the Trustees and will report.
2nd by Kappler
For – rest, Abstained – Hay, Folsom
Resolution -Trustees thank each officer for their hard work.
5. Officers are seated.
6. Absent with Proxy
 - Davis for Haberland
7. Absent without proxy
 - Armstrong, Lyons, Siemion (resigned)
8. Board would like to thank Jay Siemion for his years of work on the board. He will continue his work on the Sellecks and Knox Preserves.
9. Board votes to seat Julie R and Wayne R for Lyon and Siemion.
10. Warner moved to seat Craig Cantello in Jay Siemion place pending his approval until the June Board meeting.
2nd by Youngbaer
For – Rest, Abstained – Russel, Reouls.
Passed
2/10/2009 Craig gave his approval.
11. President's Report – Bob Addis- Attachment A
12. Vice President's Report –Peter Youngbaer – Attachment B
13. Treasurer's Report –Bill Folsom - Attachment C
14. Secretary's Report – Christa Hay
 - Onesquethaw changing station- Big Thanks to Art Rafferty for putting up. Now on to more "cleanup" items.
 - EC minutes – Attachment D
15. Science Committee – Larry Davis – no report
16. Acquisitions Committee Report –Chuck Porter - Attachment E
 - Bentleys Management Plan- The surface and cave biology sections are copied directly from the Sellecks report, and will be revised next year when the leaves are out and a biologist can get up and check out the cave and parcel. Also, Mike Bourgeois will do a legal survey next year and fix

the boundaries precisely at that time. His present estimate is 5.1 acres, which fits nicely with the Town requirement of a 5-acre minimum for a landlocked recreational parcel.

17. Bylaws Committee Report – Joe Levinson – no report
18. Conservation Committee Report - Joe Armstrong – no report
19. Publications/Publicity Committee Report - Christa Hay
 - Status quo
20. Fundraising Committee Report - Alan Traino – no report
21. Office Committee Report – Emily Davis / Mike Warner
 - *Problems:* None
 - Progress:* Dues notices sent out through Jan 15 due dates. Responses have been fairly good including extra donations with many checks.
 - Plans:* Assist Mike Warner and Peter Youngbaer with the WNS sampling coordination
22. Knox Cave Preserve Report –Emily Davis/Jay Siemion
 - *Problems:* None
 - Progress:* None as we are shut down for the year.
 - Plans:* Get the property markers up before the trees fill in, in the spring.
 - Note- we did give our neighbor, Darren Bassler, permission to hunt on the property again this year.
23. Onesquethaw Cave Preserve Report – Thom Engel
 - Will inspect the new changing station and place the posted sign.
24. Sellecks Karst Preserve Report – Jason Siemion
 - I cut and marked a new trail that begins behind the changing area, runs above/along the creek, and rejoins the old trail near where the old trail re-entered the woods. This now keeps the trail on NCC property and will require much less mowing to keep the trail open. It is still a little rough, so when the weather gets nice again in the spring I may ask for a bit of help finishing it up. Mike Chu made a nice sign for the driveway of the property, hope to get that up at some point soon and eventually get the property boundary markers up.
25. Clarksville Preserve Report – Mike Chu, Thom Engel, Chuck Porter
 - Status Quo. Several trees down on preserve from recent windy weather---one tree fell on the main trail near the kiosk and the rest along the path towards the Thook entrance. (Already been taken care of.)
26. Ella Armstrong Preserve Report – Joe Armstrong –no report
27. Education Committee Report – David Lyons
 - Nothing to report
 - Emily – David was appreciated by Thatcher Park and the visitors.
28. Membership Committee – open
29. Website Subcommittee Report – Mike Chu
 - Minor problems with web database (noticed in November). Should be fixed by the time you're reading this. Main site working fine.
30. Legal Committee Report – Mark Seltzer – no report
31. Special and Group Use Coordinators –Amy Cox – no report
32. Financial and Investments Committee – Joe Levinson – no report

33. Volunteer Value Committee – Vince Kappler

- *Progress:* VV totals to date, November 23, 2008: 840 hours of work for a total value of \$16857.00. The dollar total is approximately \$3000.00 less than this time last year. I expect that the numbers will increase somewhat as members submit their VV time and mileage for the last quarter. 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

34. Ad hoc Committee – Surprise Cave – Bob Simmons

- Pat Vissering of DEC was to complete our AANR application by early November. I checked in with her by email for a progress report and received a reply today 12/1/08, that she has not completed the review/processing as of yet but hopes to have it done by Christmas. I told her I would check back in with her between Christmas and New Years and offered any assistance we could provide.

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

- Phone tag with land trust, they are very busy with other land donations.

36. Ad hoc Committee -Merlins Cave - Chuck Porter

- Working on getting purchase contract signed.

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

2nd by Chu

Passed unanimously

- Hicks - discuss the upcoming winter bat surveys and soil sampling. Meeting with RPI Dec 17th - automated counter Carl Hertgotz coordinating this endeavor.
Hicks – gating work – had an issue with supplier was suppose to get 400 data loggers only got 90. All three sites are done – Feahnstock State Park, Hooper Mine, Greeley Mine. WNS fungal soil sample database-collecting potential volunteers. Upcoming winter surveys – want to greatly expand the cave base – Al will send to me the info so I can start gathering.
- Hay – reduce the newsletter publications? Very hard for Editor to get any articles/information from people. Maybe go to two a year or one annual report. Davis –still send out emails four times a year thru the membership email list. Annual report (March – April) should be done...needs to be done - need to get more photos and even just one of two sentences of what was done – Thatcher Park, Clarksville days etc.....more public outreach.
- Youngbaer – should set up ad hoc for setting up beneficiaries for the NCC.
- Davis –fund raising – concerned – fund raising seems to be an after thought. There is no leadership in fundraising. Need a campaign for merlins...t-shirts etc.?
- Davis – international –set up of displays. NCC table Christa to work on an informative display (one 6' table)
- Addis: The NSS feels that it wants to move its national headquarters from Huntsville, AL for two reasons: over crowded & no place to build and second, environmental impacts on the underlying cave, Shelta. This is a request to solicit proposals from around the country. I feel that we should discuss it to highlight possible benefits to the NCC as well as the fact that many of us are NSS members as well.

Pro:

- According to my MBA thesis, 25% of the nation's population lives within a 6 hour drive of Albany & Schoharie Counties. No other region of the US can claim this.
- The NCC might be able to host their own Executive Director in a small section of shared space. Most likely an ED is our next step in growth.
- We can do it if we choose. We have a stellar long term track record with volunteerism within both the NSS & NCC.
- There are many sites of affordable acreage or under used buildings in the NE.

Con:

- This long term commitment burns out volunteers. When the Office started in Huntsville in the early 70's, the grotto was very active due to the influx of people with the Redstone Arsenal. This is no longer the case.
- Cost of living, hence hiring staff is higher in the NE.
- We don't completely know what it takes to run the Office in terms of volunteers.
- What's in it for us?
- A bigger issue the NSS Board has to face is whether they can afford to move given the flat or even declining growth rate of the NSS.
- Wayne Russell – TS3 –set up a benefit concert for caves. – August 8, 2009 Widow Jane Mine. Would like cavers involved as well. Would like the NCC to have a table there with lots of information. Small food concession run by cavers? Any money that TS3 makes will be used for cave acquisitions. Looking for help in any way...especially come to the event.

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

2nd by Davis

For – all

Passed unanimously

39. Minutes approved at next meeting.

40. Folsom moved that the NCC approve the 2009 Budget as submitted in the December 2008

Treasurer's Report.

2nd by Hay

For – rest, Abstained – Davis

Passed

41. Addis moved the NCC accepts the donation of Bentleys Cave, Rensselaer County, NY from the Bentley family.

2nd by Folsom

Passed unanimously

42. Informational Point: The president appoints Charles O. Porter as Chairman of the ad hoc Bentley Cave Preserve Committee.

43. Information Point: The president will ad hoc for planed giving – Folsom – Chair, Youngbaer, Seltzer and Traino.

44. Hay moved to thank Thom Engle for his \$3000 donation as a one-to-one match for the Merlins Cave purchase.

2nd by Davis

Passed unanimously

45. Hay moved to accept the interim Management for Bentley Cave Preserve.

2nd by Kappler

Passed unanimously

46. Hay moved to thank Art Rafferty

2nd by Folsom

Passed

47. Hay moved to accept the management plan for Ella Armstrong Cave Preserve.
2nd by Simmons
Passed unanimously
48. Ad hoc committee- 30th Anniversary – Bob Addis
49. Informational Point: Executive committee meeting will be held Sunday February 1, 2009 at Cohoes at 10:00am.
50. Addis moved that the next NCC Board meeting will be held March 29 or April 05 at 10:00am...to be announced..Sunday following the anniversary dinner.
2nd by Davis
Passed unanimously
51. Addis moved to thank Speleobooks for hosting the meeting.
2nd by Hicks
Passed unanimously
52. Addis moved to adjourn.
2nd by Hay
Passed unanimously
- Meeting adjourned at 2:22 pm

Attachment A
PRESIDENT'S REPORT

12/01/08

Since our meeting in September it has been rather quiet with the NCC although several notable projects are continuing forward.

1. White Nose Syndrome (WNS). VP Peter Youngbaer and Trustee Mike Warner have been extremely busy on this issue and have reported elsewhere for this meeting. I will not steal any of their thunder but simply state that the NCC for the second year has closed its caves containing significant numbers of bats in an attempt to give the bat population a chance to hibernate undisturbed.

Research continues on WNS and interim reports are out. The NCC is acting as a pass through to disperse funds from the WNS Rapid Response Fund established by the NSS.
2. Bentley's Donation. After concentrated efforts by Chuck Porter Mike B and Mike Chu, the owners have agreed in principle on the acreage that they will be donating as well as the location of a parking lot and access trail. The land survey and the biology survey needed for the management plan are awaiting Spring 09.
3. NCC's 30th Anniversary. An ad hoc committee headed by the President has been looking into various ways to celebrate a significant milestone. Some of our initial efforts to host a large fund raising event similar to those put on by other land trusts have raised questions about participation in light of our current economic conditions. It would be our first fund raiser of this nature and we have neither the experience nor the name recognition of others. Consequently we will be discussing this at the December meeting to decide a course of action. Progress reports will be forthcoming.

Attachment B
NCC Vice President's Report
December 7, 2008

This has been yet another busy quarter. Immediately after our last board meeting, I drafted the press release announcing the status of the NCC caves vis a vis White Nose Syndrome. I coordinated this with the NSS cave preserves in our region, and then assisted Christa with the release to various media and cave outlets.

White Nose Syndrome continues to dominate my time, and it intersects with NCC activities frequently. With the Executive Committee's approval, the NCC signed on to a letter of support for a \$1.3 million multi-state competitive State Wildlife Grant from the USFWS. This is the first potential major funding source for a host of collaborative research on WNS. Whether or not the grant application is successful will be known in February.

The Executive Committee, at my request, approved the NCC being the pass through agent for an NSS White Nose Syndrome Rapid Response Fund grant. This is the project that was sent to you requesting assistance with soil sampling later this winter. Mike Warner and I are coordinating this for the researchers: Dr. David Blehert, Dr. Tom Kunz, and Al Hicks. The amount of funding is \$ 5,000, which will purchase the sampling supplies and prepaid mailers for 125-150 sites all across the eastern U.S. Al Hicks and I will coordinate the purchase of the supplies, which Mike will then send to caver volunteers.

I participated in the Executive Committee meeting a few weeks ago by conference call. We covered many subjects such as Merlin's fundraising and where we stood with pursuing a purchase and sales agreement, budget development for 2009, finishing the changing room at Onesquethaw, progress on Bentley's acquisition, follow-up on Becker's, routine office operations, and even briefly talked about whether or not we might be interested in responding to the NSS' call for proposals to relocate NSS headquarters.

One item that has come up on several occasions is the concept of planned giving. This includes bequeathing money to the NCC and other financial vehicles as a way to build financial reserves and/or finance acquisitions. Other cave conservancies are ahead of us in terms of setting these vehicles up, and we should seriously explore doing the same.

Both at the EC meeting, and in numerous emails between meetings, we have also followed the status of the NCC's investments through the National Speleological Foundation. Bill has been pushing for a more detailed report from the NSF, as the economy continues to adversely affect our funds.

We have also continued, albeit slowly, to move forward with plans for the NCC 30th Anniversary dinner. This has the potential to be a major fundraiser for Merlin's, and should be at the top of all our priority lists for activity in the next couple of months.

Finally, although my location in Vermont makes travel difficult and expensive, and the NCC work takes a lot of time, I enjoy working with the other officers – who all put in a great deal of effort on behalf of the NCC. I would be happy to serve another term. Peter Youngbaer, VP.

Attachment C
Treasurer's Report

December 1, 2008

	<u>Nov 30, 08</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Checking	2,691.30
Money Market	36,152.12
PayPal Checking	24.15
NSF Account (10/31/08)	<u>32,375.00</u>
Total Checking/Savings	<u>71,242.57</u>
 Total Current Assets	 <u>71,242.57</u>
 TOTAL ASSETS	 <u><u>71,242.57</u></u>

2009 Budget

A proposed 2009 Budget has been prepared (see below), and awaits approval by the Board.

NSF Fund investment down

The NCC's funds with the National Speleological Foundation stood @ \$46,561 at EOY2007, now at \$32,375 as of October 31st, a decrease of almost 31% in 10 months. Given the current economic downturn and associated negative investment environment, I feel the NCC should revisit these investments and consider less risk in their portfolio. On the other hand, staying in the market allows us more upside should the investment picture improve over the longer term.

NSF Treasurer Ted Kayes wrote on November 21st:

"I shall be preparing a special, end of November report for the Trustees and will send you a copy."

Merlins Cave Fund update

\$12,541 has been donated to the Merlins Cave Fund thus far, not including a pending donation from Speleobooks for \$500 and \$250 from NNJG. Current fundraising efforts are focused on raising \$10,000 by the end of 2008 to match the grant graciously donated by Dick Blenz. Not including the pending donations listed above, we need to raise approximately \$3,869 towards the Blenz Matching Grant for 2008 (\$6,131 has been received since September 1).

Craig Cantello has taken a first pass at filling out a grant application form towards the Merlins Cave Fund for \$10,000 from the Fields Pond Foundation.

Researching the NCC as a beneficiary

Recently a longtime NCC member inquired as to the process for naming the NCC a beneficiary to their estate. We need to find an attorney knowledgeable about this prepare a document that we can post in order to enable future bequests. See www.scci.org/legacy for an example of how the SCC handles this.

Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual

12/01/2008

January 1 through November 30, 2008

	<u>Jan 1 - Nov 30, 08</u>	<u>Budget 08</u>	<u>Budget 09</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income			
Donations	2,470.66	6,200.00	3,000.00
Donations Restricted	11,375.00	6,340.00	-
Auction Proceeds	1,376.00	0.00	1,000.00
Interest Earned	282.74	200.00	200.00
Membership	3,745.00	2,910.00	3,500.00
Promotional Items	26.00	200.00	215.00
Total Income	<u>19,275.40</u>	<u>15,850.00</u>	<u>7,915.00</u>
Expense			
Sponsorships	70.00	0.00	100.00
Meeting Expense	85.00	0.00	100.00
Acquisitions	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Bank Charges	15.77	0.00	15.00
Conservation	5.99	300.00	300.00
Donations-outgoing	250.00	200.00	350.00
Dues	0.00	0.00	-
Education	0.00	150.00	100.00
Executive			
President	105.00	200.00	200.00
VP	0.00	50.00	100.00
Treasurer	70.00	400.00	100.00
Secretary	0.00	50.00	100.00
Executive - Other	0.00	0.00	-
Total Executive	<u>175.00</u>	<u>700.00</u>	<u>500.00</u>
Legal Fees	0.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
Legal Beckers	1,467.98	6,340.00	-
Licenses & Permits	50.00	0.00	50.00
Mailings	0.00	0.00	-
Miscellaneous	0.00	100.00	100.00
Office Expense	363.99	150.00	150.00
Postage	41.00	0.00	50.00
Preserves-Maintenance			
Clarksville	0.00	900.00	200.00
Ella Armstrong	0.00	1,100.00	1,100.00
Knox	0.00	175.00	25.00
Onesquethaw	205.00	250.00	-
Sellecks	0.00	225.00	25.00
Preserves-Maintenance - Other	0.00	0.00	500.00
Total Preserves-Maintenance	<u>205.00</u>	<u>2,650.00</u>	<u>1,850.00</u>
Professional Services	0.00	0.00	-
Promotion/Fundraising			
Advertising	30.00	0.00	30.00

Printing	40.00	0.00	50.00
Promotional Items	322.40	900.00	900.00
Total Promotion/Fundraising	<u>392.40</u>	<u>900.00</u>	<u>980.00</u>
Publishing			
Website	0.00	120.00	60.00
Mailings	152.77	300.00	200.00
Total Publishing	<u>152.77</u>	<u>420.00</u>	<u>260.00</u>
Taxes on Properties	9.98	0.00	10.00
Telephone	0.00	0.00	-
Travel	0.00	0.00	-
Uncategorized Expenses	0.00	0.00	-
Website	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Expense	<u>3,284.88</u>	<u>14,910.00</u>	<u>7,915.00</u>
Net Ordinary Income	15,990.52	940.00	0.00
Other Income/Expense			
Other Income			
In Kind donations	0.00	0.00	-
Volunteer Value	16,857.00	0.00	-
Total Other Income	<u>16,857.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>-</u>
Other Expense			
In Kind Out	0.00	0.00	0.00
Volunteer Value Exp	16,857.00	0.00	0.00
Total Other Expense	<u>16,857.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Net Other Income	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Net Income	<u>15,990.52</u>	<u>940.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Net Gain or Loss from NSF Fund (10/31/08)	<u>-14,186.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
NET Income after NSF Fund Gain/Loss	<u>1,804.52</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>

Attachment D

EC Meeting
November 9, 2008
Cohoes, NY

Attendees: Bob, Peter, Bill, Christa, Chuck, Craig (conference call Peter, Bill)

Merlins: nowhere with the purchase contract – Belknaps have not gotten back to Chuck; they say that they want to do it but still no contract. *Chuck will make phone call, \$11,9011.00 so far raised for Merlins, Craig sent filled out grant Fields Pond Foundation and sent to Bill. Bill and Craig will discuss off line*

Beckers: \$357.50 has been paid to lawyer. Wait and see now

Bat Gates: Fahnestock State Park was done....only one so far. We will get some donation money but not the whole \$2k due to only one gate done. They were not able to get supplies.

WNS: Fungus type was just published even though we knew this information last year; it was just published so more press came out. Dr David Blair...wants to collect soil samples from 100 sites east of the Mississippi. Peter is contact for NCC on this...collection will happen in January - February. Two other research projects are going on...but need more funding..this is from the NSS WNS fund. \$300K funding source has been secured.

Onesquethaw: frame is up. Can we finish up before snow? Are the supplies purchased? Reimbursement...trying to get the 08 numbers done. *I will contact him.*

Budget: Bill will put in numbers for next year and will send to us before the next meeting.

Officer elections: the board will all run again. *I need to get in touch with Mike M.*

NCC Anniversary dinner: Bob has been working on it. Looking for speaker- Pete Grannis. Checked with State Museum for venue. Catering? Fundraising? Silent auction, Back up speaker? Joe Martens? Tom Kuntz. This needs to be on the December board meeting agenda. We need a good one or not have one.

Bentleys- management plan to be accepted at the December board meeting. Thom Engle cannot get biological survey done. Take Sellecks biology and put in the management plan and re-do next year. *Chuck can write up management plan and distribute to board members before meeting.* Need to finalize survey with Mike B and the land owner. - looking to get definite boundaries. *Chuck will be up there Tuesday November 11 with landowner.* Management committee for this??? Chuck interim or Mike B

Torys – *Peter will contact Bob Simmons*

NSS headquarters: The NSS is considering moving their headquarters. Does the NCC want to put in a proposal to move it up here?

NSS affiliate? *I will check past minutes and ask John Wilson*