

NORTHEASTERN CAVE CONSERVANCY, INC.

Minutes

December 9, 2012 10:00am Speleobooks

Meeting called to order at 10:12

1. Introduction and greetings – President Bob Addis

Amy – reporter from

2. Attendance:

Officers: B. Addis, V. Kappler, B. Folsom, C. Hay

Trustees: M Chu, K. Dumont, T. Engel, A. Traino, M. Warner, P. Woodell, P. Youngbaer

3. Absent with Proxy: Chuck Porter for Morgan Ingalls

4. Absent without Proxy: Al Hicks

5. Board voted Mitch Berger (new life member) as proxy for Al Hicks

6. Nominating Committee Chairman Bob Simmons announces the results of the Officers' election search.

A. Officers Elections

1. Solicited officer's candidate names/nominations via NCC & NRO email lists and NCC FB page.

2. Checked in with existing officers.

3. No new candidates put forth (or suggested).

4. The four existing officers have agreed to stand for another year.

Slate for 2013:

1. President Bob Addis

2. Vice-President Vince Kappler

3. Treasurer Bill Folsom

4. Secretary Christa Hay

B. Upcoming Board Elections 2013

1. Up this year: Dumont, Warner, Woodell (please check in with Bob S as to whether you are intending to run for reelection, thanks).

2. Hope to have new on-line system operation to replace email system used in previous few elections.

3. Please forward names of potential additional candidates to RWS as soon as possible so I may contact them about running. Will put out email/FB call for candidates early in 2013.

Nominations by the Trustees for any Officer are now open.

7. Addis moved to convene a meeting of the Trustees to elect Officers. Traino will preside over the elections as Chairman of the Trustees and will report.

2nd by Chu

Passed unanimously

Trustees voted to select the officers.

Passed.

8. Officers are seated.

9. President's Report – Bob Addis- Attachment A

10. Vice President's Report –Vince Kappler – Attachment B

11. Treasurer's Report –Bill Folsom - Attachment C

12. Secretary's Report – Christa Hay

- Question: would the Board prefer agenda a month before the meeting?

- Status quo

- November EC meeting minutes – Attachment D

13. Science Committee – Larry Davis – no report

14. Acquisitions Committee –Open ?

15. Bylaws Committee Report – Joe Levinson

- Talked with Peter Youngbaer about a bylaws change to include a Family Life membership option
16. Publications/Publicity Committee Report - Christa Hay
 - Brochure – started working on the brochure. Looking for good photos. Thom Engel stated that we should check out the grant and use it to help with the brochure.
 17. Fundraising Committee – Open
 18. Office Committee Report – Emily Davis / Mike Warner
 - Status quo
 19. Knox Cave Preserve Report –Emily Davis
 - Permission given to our neighbor to hunt on the property and remove 3 dead trees near the trail. He has been keeping the trail mowed this year which has made the management of the property much easier.
 - The permitted science continues with soil samples being taken on December 6, 2012. Ryan Von Linden with be supervising.
 20. Onesquethaw Cave Preserve – Thom Engel
 - Permits going out
 21. Sellecks Karst Preserve – Alan Traino
 - Nothing to report
 22. Clarksville Preserve – Mike Chu, Thom Engel, Chuck Porter – no report
 - Cleanup in October, removed downed tree and placed on back of parking area in hopes to stop people driving thru. Also did some cleanup around Gregory
 23. Bentleys Preserve Report - Jonah Spivak
 - On 5/12/12 a register was placed at the info Kiosk for Bentleys Cave as per the management plan.
 - 5/12/12-11/10/12 -- 25 groups with a total of 82 people signed in/out using the register during this six-month period.
 - Two entries reference a geo cache located on the property. These people are visiting the preserve to geo cache only and did not enter the cave.
 - On 11/10/12 a Cave Rescue Informational Presentation was held at the Berlin Fire Department for local Fire and Rescue personnel with Greg Moore (NCRC Instructor) and Jonah Spivak (Bentleys Cave Preserve Manager) presenting. After the presentation, a tour of the property and Bentleys Cave was given to several members of the Berlin FD. The Berlin FD also volunteered for, and completed, the removal of several trees that had fallen over the access trail during the past year, and from the recent storm "Sandy." This represents a terrific level of communication building and cooperation between the NCC and local first responders for the Bentley's preserve.
 - A fair amount of garbage was removed from the cave... a number of gatorade bottles, whiskey bottle, flare, cyalume stick, broken glass. New graffiti was also found. I believe this represents an increase from previous years. I suspect it is locals based on the nature of the trash, and I wonder if signage inside the cave stating NY cave law and penalties for damage to caves might help this problem. I'd appreciate feedback from the board on this issue, as to whether or not such signage would help.
 - Mitch stated that some folks from Boston grotto were on the property and there were hunters on the property . the cavers asked them to leave. Do we need to put signs up??
 24. Ella Armstrong Preserve – Alan Traino
 - Nothing to report
 25. Merlins Cave Preserve – Morgan Ingalls
 - We closed the cave on Oct. 1st. John did finish the survey and has been drafting it- it'll probably be done by the March meeting. John and I also had to write a wildlife management plan for a class we both had this semester, so we're writing one for Merlin's. Once it's done, we'll send a copy around to the board- we're not going to submit it for review or anything- it'll just have some interesting tit bits of information for anyone who wants to read it. We are still planning on doing a surface survey- probably this coming spring.
 - This fall we had an OCR that focused on the Merlins/Bentley's areas. We had a good number of both cavers and agency folks, and I think we now have a really good relationship with the Canaan FD. I even had one member of the FD ask if he could see the INSIDE of the cave when it reopens in the spring!
 26. Education Committee – Thom Engel – no report
 27. Membership Committee – Peter Youngbaer
 - All membership renewal notices November 1, 2012 through January 31, 2013 have been sent. Second reminders for folks who haven't renewed yet from August through October have also been sent. All new and renewing members communicated to me through Dec. 5 have been thanked. As of Dec. 5, our numbers are:

Life	23
Benefactor	10
Regular	88
Family	18
Institutional	6
Total	145

I plan to bring a list of lapsed members to Sunday's meeting to pass around. It would help greatly if Board members gave a personal nudge to folks they know. This marks the completion of my first year as Membership Committee Chair, but my outreach work really didn't get going until March when we got the data base updated and could begin working with it. I expect we will see more renewals before the end of the year, so the real comparison in numbers will be at the March meeting.

28. Website Subcommittee – Mike Chu
 - Nothing to report
29. Legal Committee Report – Open
30. Special and Group Use Coordinators – Thom Engel/Emily Davis- interim
 - Continue to issue permits. Slowed down during winter
31. Financial and Investments Committee – Joe Levinson
 - Nothing to report
32. Volunteer Value Committee – Vince Kappler
 - Progress: Year to date totals are: 1,408 hours of volunteer work have been recorded on NCC projects and members drove 11,304 miles for a total value of \$47,311.
 - Plans: I will send periodic VV reminders to the membership and monitor data collection.
 - Problems: None at this time
33. Nominating Committee – Bob Simmons
 - Officer election – report above
34. Ad hoc Committee – Surprise Cave – Bob Simmons - Attachment E
 - Assisted NYS DEC with Bat survey on February 1, 2012. Thanks to Alan Traino, Morgan Ingalls and Bob Jacobs for assistance and set up. As previously reported, bat population decimated by WNS: last count in 1987: 5113; now: 40.
 - Performed site walkover with Kevin Dumont following June Board Meeting.
 - Assisted NYS DEC with research project deployment and sampling. Thanks to Wayne Russell and Joanne Beliveau for assistance and set up.
 - Have begun dialog with Jim Kennedy of BCI concerning a new gate (have not pushed this very far as yet).
 - Assisting NYS DEC with second trip to collect samples (follow up to August deployment trip) on December 4, 2012. Thanks to Alan Traino, Wayne Russell and Joanne Beliveau. Hope to provide an update on this activity at, or prior to, Board Meeting.
 - Scientific Trip report details – Attachment E
 - Craig Hindman – good relationship with east coast cavers. Possible cave gate. Also Jim Kennedy very good at gating. He could come up here and do a gate building workshop.
 - Water quality discussion
35. Ad hoc Committee- Tory's Cave – Bob Simmons
 - Proposed meeting this week with new ED of Weantinoge Heritage Land Trust has been postponed until after the first of the year, will send update to Board following that meeting.
 - Note: Our long term contact at Weantinoge, Ecologist Harry White, left the trust earlier this fall. No indication as of yet as to how that may impact our relations with WHLT.
36. Ad hoc Risk Management Committee - Bob Addis, Peter Youngbaer, Vince Kappler
 - Discussion at EC meeting. Still out working on items. Need to get back to Youngbaer concerning contacting the lawyer in Vermont or if we can use the pro bono lawyer for another year have him work on the project if he cannot we then go to the Vermont lawyer.
37. Mohawk River Basin Karst Ad hoc committee- Chuck Porter and Art Palmer
 - Nothing to report yet
38. Transmission pipeline karst Impact ad hoc committee – Thom Engel
 - Nothing to report at this time. Senses they are regrouping due to more resistance

39. Action Items (from previous meeting)
- Christa to find a display FLAG for and table skirt - Christa has been checking prices
 - Science Projects – discussion on science policy procedure. needs tweaking. If there is a negative impact to caves, karts etc we should not allow but if we do not agree with a science project that should not automatically vote it down. We will send some concerns to Science Chair for his input and work on reworking the procedure. Does the board have to vote on each project??? Property managers should be able to make decision. But the science coordinator should see all research properties.
 - Conservation easement/ liability – Merlins
40. Addis moved to open the Committee of the Whole. The Vice President will preside. Items can be entered as new business.
2nd by Engel
Passed unanimously
- Davis- Two ideas for Acquisitions;
 1. [REDACTED]. Not that the farm is on the road with considerable traffic it is possible that the family might be willing to sell or donate the cave and a small amount of land.
 2. [REDACTED]. The owner is fairly elderly (though in good shape!) Maybe she might be willing to will the cave and the chunk of land around it to us.
 Both of these would be best handled by Kevin Dumont as he has a relationship with both owners.
 - Kappler - NCRC – 2013 seminar in Schoharie in July. They want blanket permission for our caves and then go to specific preserves manager and the special use group. They are asking for permission for the cave use. When we have the request for the caves. The Preserve managers should be in the loop and making decisions.
 - Grant – Parks and Trail NYS – they have a grant available for membership growth (brochures, website, maybe the retreat?) in (Growing the Grass Roots – grants up to \$3k) Peter Y will start the grant process and send out a draft report..
 - Engel – Geocaching – do we allow these on our property? Will do this by continued discussion and per property
 - Signage for hunting etc- case by case basis...caves not closed should not have hunting
 - Management plan – publicity policy. Ours is out of date – we should include internet, blogging etc. Thom will write something
 - Thacher master plan – plan is a bit behind schedule – Thom will keep on top of this
 - Retreat – have a retreat for the board. Looking for comments/suggestions. Possible places -Marthas Vineyard, Natural Stone Bridge. Looking to do it in the fall....long weekend.
41. Dumont moved to close the Committee of the Whole.
2nd by Traino
Passed unanimously
42. Informational point – Reporter – Amy- from Chemical Heritage working on pod cast - interested in cave preservation. General formation of caves...also how they are preserved and managed.
43. Hay moved to accept the minutes of the September 9, 2012 meeting.
2nd by Woodell
Abstained: Hay, Porter, Mitch
Passed
- The following motion postponed from previous meeting*
44. Addis moves \$10,000.00 be directed to the Rensselaer Land Trust (RLT) for a conservation easement to be held by RLT on the Bentley property. This will be paid in five equal annual installments of \$2,000.00 each, the first payment being due upon the acceptance of the conservation easement agreement by RLT. If requested, the NCC shall forward a copy of the survey and the walking right-of-way into the property.
2nd by Traino
Postponed from September 2011 meeting
- Engel moved to postpone until Merlins conservation easement is completed and the recommendation of the ad hoc risk committee are given
2nd by Youngbaer
For- Rest Abstained Porter
- We have not received the Ad hoc committee recommendation so is still postponed.
45. Folsom moved that the NCC accept the 2013 budget as presented at the 12/09/12 Board meeting.
2nd by Hay
Passed unanimously
46. Kappler moved: Act 24-56 Legal Expenses for Beckers Cave and Act 10-7 Funding for Merlins Cave are deleted and funds remaining in these dedicated accounts are transferred to the General Fund.
2nd by Traino

For Rest Abstained; Dumont
Passed

Proposed Bylaw Change – sent out to current members within proper time frame. All members present can vote.

47. Kappler moved the following Bylaw change - Current Bylaw: Article III, Section 2.e: Institutional Membership -
e. Institutional: have all privileges of Regular membership except Institutional Members are organizations and not individuals.

Proposed Bylaw

e. Institutional: have all privileges of Regular membership except Institutional Members are organizations and not individuals, thus they cannot vote or hold any office.

2nd by Chu

Passed unanimously

Proposed Bylaw Change – sent out to current members within proper time frame. All members present can vote.

48. Kappler moved the following Bylaw change - Current Bylaw: Article IX, Section 4.b: Quorum for Board of Directors meeting:
b. Board of Directors: Seven members on the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum.

Proposed Bylaw

b. Board of Directors: Five trustees and two officers shall constitute a quorum.

2nd by Engel

Passed Unanimously

Proposed Bylaw changes – these need to go to the Members before voting at next meeting.

49. Youngbaer moves that the Bylaws be amended in Article III Membership, Sec. 2. Categories of Membership, by adding a new subsection:

g. Family Life: have all privileges of Family membership and may receive publications digitally when available. Family Life memberships are available to family members of a Life member joined by marriage or civil union, and to children of a Life member up to age 18. Family Life members pay a onetime membership fee determined by the Board. If the Life member dies, the Family Life member shall automatically be converted to regular Life membership. If the marriage or civil union is dissolved, the Family Life member may convert to full Life by paying the difference in dues amount currently in force.

and further moves that Act 23-1 be amended as follows

The annual membership dues are as follows:

Regular	\$15
Family	\$ 5
Student	\$10
Benefactor	\$50
Institutional	\$100
Life	\$300
Family Life	\$100

The Life and Family Life Membership fee may be paid over three (3) years in equal installments in addition to paying the basic Regular or Family dues fee, respectively.

2nd by Kappler

Discussion: While sending out the most recent batch of membership renewals and thank yous, one NCC member inquired if there was a Family Life membership option. I had to tell him we currently have such a thing.

However, we have a number of couples where one is a Regular member, the other Family. If the Regular member chose to become a Life member (\$300, or 20 x the annual membership fee), they would still have to continue paying an annual \$5 fee to continue the Family membership for their significant other or minor children. I can easily see where, simply as a matter of convenience, they would like to also make a one-time payment to have a Life Family member as well. If we did the same math (\$5 x 20), we'd have a fee of \$100 for this new category. The question then becomes what to do when the underlying Life member dies or the parties break up. It seems a nice gesture to transfer the full Life voting privileges to the survivor, plus, we already have the money. If the couple breaks up, the former Family Life member can simply pay the difference and become a Life member themselves (in this case, paying the additional \$200). But maybe they don't want to. They could alternatively simply join as a Regular member, or

maybe they don't want to be a member at all. In either of those scenarios, I don't think it needs to be addressed in the Bylaws. So, I propose the bylaw and Act amendments for consideration.

50. Addis moved that Thom Engel be the Chairman of Special Use Group.
2nd by Folsom
For- Rest Abstained-Engel
Passed
51. President appoints an AdHoc Committee for a Retreat – Bob Addis, Bob Simmons Vince Kappler
52. Youngbaer moved that the NCC make its cave and preserves available to the NCRC the week of July 6 through 13, 2013. Specific arrangements shall be made with the special and group use coordinator and the individual preserves managers.
2nd by Mitch
For- Rest Opposed- Engel
Passed
53. Informational Point: Executive committee meeting will be February 20th at 7:00 pm. NCC Conference Call: 605-475-6111, Access Code: 814008
54. Addis moved that the next NCC Board meeting will be March 3rd at 10:00 Kerhonkson with March 10th as a snow date.
2nd by Engel
For- Rest Opposed- Traino Abstaining= Mitch
Passed
55. Addis moved to thanks Speleobooks for hosting the meeting.
2nd by Dumont
Passed Unanimously
56. Addis moves to adjourn.
2nd by Hay
For – Rest Opposed -Traino Abstained – Youngbaer
Passed Unanimously

Meeting adjourned at 1:25

Attachment A President's Report

It's been a quiet fall for the NCC. We were present at the Fall NRO held at Natural Stone Bridge and Caves in Pottersville, NY and of course the 4th Annual Barn Dance and Fund Raiser in October. There were fewer in attendance this year but the profits were good. The Knox Cave Room of the Knox Historical Society's Museum was open prior to the Barn Dance and it was well attended including Roger Dinsmore's daughter and son in law, Bonnie and Bill.

On October 27 the NCC had a table display manned by Thom Engel at the 1st Annual Hollyhock Hollow-ween! The NCC had been invited by the Audubon Society and Appalachian Mountain Club who had heard a rumor that their cave was physically connected to our Onesquethaw! We didn't attend so much to burst their bubble but to offer some educated facts on the local caves and we were well received. I'm certain that the NCC will be invited back to a second annual event.

Recently the NCC received notice that Thacher State Park, Albany County, was requesting responses to its Visitor Survey as part of their Master Plan process. Recall that throughout the year the NCC has been proactive in offering comments and suggestions to drafts of their Master Plan in hopes of assisting with park cave management. Stay tuned.

Attachment B Vice President's Report

The NCC Manual and all management plans were updated per actions taken at the September board meeting. Revised plans were sent to Preserve Managers and to Mike C. to be posted on the web site.

I was absent for the September board meeting so I relied on email conversations to get me up to speed on the Board's input for the proposed Institutional Membership and Meeting Quorum bylaw amendments. I prepared new bylaw language and circulated it to the board and Bylaws Committee. I received two positive responses from board members and questions with comments from NCC member JP. I sent JP a note giving a rational for the bylaw changes. The proposed Bylaw amendments were circulated to the membership about November 7 which meets the membership notification requirements.

EC Meeting

I participated in the EC phone meeting held on November 29.

Attachment C
Treasurer's Report
December 2, 2012

The 2011 federal tax return was filed prior to the 11/15/12 deadline (2 postponements of 3 months each were used due to busy personal schedules). Many thanks go to both Lee Del Valle and Ayzha Wolf for their efforts.

Below is the Budget vs. Actual for 2012, along with a proposed budget for 2013.

Northeastern Cave Conservancy Inc Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual

12/02/2012

January 1 through December 1, 2012

	<u>Jan 1 - Dec 1, 12</u>	<u>Budget 12</u>	<u>Budget 13</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income			
Donations			
Auction Donations	1,116.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Donations - Other	3,208.53	4,000.00	4,000.00
Total Donations	<u>4,324.53</u>	<u>5,000.00</u>	<u>5,000.00</u>
Donations Restricted			
NCC White Nose Fund	50.00	0.00	0.00
Total Donations Restricted	<u>50.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Interest Earned	7.32	50.00	5.00
Membership Income	4,865.00	5,200.00	5,200.00
Total Income	<u>9,246.85</u>	<u>10,250.00</u>	<u>10,205.00</u>
Expense			
Acquisitions	0.00	500.00	500.00
Bank Charges	32.92	20.00	20.00
Development	0.00	1,445.00	1,000.00
Donations-outgoing	205.76	200.00	200.00
Easements	0.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
Education	0.00	100.00	100.00
Executive			
President	0.00	150.00	150.00
Secretary	0.00	75.00	75.00
Treasurer	200.00	275.00	275.00
VP	0.00	75.00	75.00
Total Executive	<u>200.00</u>	<u>575.00</u>	<u>575.00</u>
Insurance	971.10	0.00	1,100.00
Legal Fees	0.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
Licenses & Permits	0.00	300.00	150.00
Meeting Expense	0.00	100.00	100.00
Membership Expenses	0.00	100.00	100.00
Miscellaneous	0.00	100.00	100.00
Office Expense	0.00	100.00	100.00
Postage	55.00	150.00	100.00

Preserves-Maintenance			
Bentleys	0.00	100.00	100.00
Clarksville	0.00	300.00	300.00
Ella Armstrong	0.00	100.00	100.00
Knox	0.00	100.00	100.00
Merlins	108.78	100.00	100.00
Onesquethaw	0.00	100.00	100.00
Sellecks	0.00	200.00	100.00
Total Preserves-Maintenance	108.78	1,000.00	900.00
Printing	0.00	200.00	100.00
Promotion/Fundraising	420.00	800.00	800.00
Mailings	0.00	200.00	100.00
Website	0.00	60.00	60.00
Sponsorships	0.00	500.00	500.00
Taxes on Properties	1,144.13	300.00	100.00
Total Expense	3,137.69	10,250.00	10,205.00
Net Ordinary Income	6,109.16	0.00	0.00
Other Income/Expense			
Other Income			
In Kind donations	0.00	0.00	0.00
Volunteer Value	25,438.00	0.00	0.00
Total Other Income	25,438.00	0.00	0.00
Other Expense			
In Kind Out	0.00	0.00	0.00
Volunteer Value Exp	25,438.00	0.00	0.00
Total Other Expense	25,438.00	0.00	0.00
Net Other Income	0.00	0.00	0.00
Net Income	6,109.16	0.00	0.00
Net Gain or Loss from NSF Fund	4,756.63		
NET Income after NSF Fund Gain/Loss	10,865.79		

Attachment D
EC Minutes

Attachment E
Surprise Cave Trip Report

Scientific Trip Report 8/29/12

Submitted to: Northeast Cave Conservancy

NCC Contact: Bob Simmons

Written by: Michelle Verant

Project Title: Characterization of climactic parameters within bat hibernacula, their influence on environmental loads of *Geomyces destructans*, and implications for the mitigation of white-nose syndrome in bats

Investigators: David Blehert and Michelle Verant (USGS-National Wildlife Health Center), Jonathan Epstein and Kevin Olival (EcoHealth Alliance)

Trip Details

Date: 8/22/12 Time: 10:30am – 7:30pm (EST)

Location: Surprise Cave, Sullivan County, NY

Personnel: Michelle Verant (NWHC), Carl Herzog, Katie O'Connor, Ryan von Linden (NYSDEC)
Jo Anne Beliveau, Wayne Russell

Purpose

The purpose of this trip was to survey the hibernacula and install data-logger devices (Maxim iButtons) within areas of the cave used by hibernating bats. Initial environmental samples were also collected.

Events

- 73 data-loggers in 1oz plastic cup shields were installed in three regions of the cave. Region 1) the New Discovery prior to the crawl; Region 2) throughout the first large sloping room in the Lakeroom Maze section; Region 3) throughout the adjoining sloping room in the Lakeroom Maze. The data-loggers were attached to the cave walls and ceilings using florist wire or nails wedged into pre-existing cracks.
- Environmental samples (cave surface swabs or soil samples) were collected at each data-logger location. A total of 61 swabs and 12 soil samples were collected. These samples were shipped to the lab at NWHC to be analyzed for *G. destructans*.
- 5 data-loggers were mounted on metal stakes, 1 near the entrance to the cave and 4 in cardinal directions approximately 20 meters from the entrance. These will provide external environmental data for comparison to internal conditions.

Summary and Follow-up

The initial set-up and sampling interval for this project were completed successfully. We greatly appreciated the assistance of our caving guides and enjoyed the challenges and natural beauty of this cave. We will be coordinating the next sampling intervals with Carl Herzog and Bob Simmons, tentatively scheduled for November/December and March/April.