

**NORTHEASTERN CAVE CONSERVANCY, INC.**

**Minutes**

March 22, 2015, 10:00 am at offices of Seymour Pollack Opticians  
769 Lafayette Ave, Hawthorne NJ.

Management Plan Review Schedule

March 2015 Bentleys

**June 2015 Clarksville**

September 2015 Ella Armstrong

December 2015 Knox

March 2016 Merlins

June 2016 Onesquethaw

September 2016 Sellecks

December 2016 Benson

Meeting called to order at 10:02

1. Introduction and greetings – Bob Addis
2. Attendance  
Officers: B. Addis, V. Kappler, B. Folsom,  
Trustees: M Chu, T. Engel, P Youngbaer, M. Berger, P. Woodell, M. Ingalls A. Traino, K. Dumont
3. Absent with Proxy JoAnne Beliveau for Tom Rider
4. Absent without Proxy Christa Hay - P Woodell will take minutes at meeting, Hay to finalize.
5. Thanks to Emily for years of service as Knox Preserve Chair.
6. President's Report – Bob Addis- Attachment A
7. Vice President's Report –Vince Kappler – Attachment B
8. Treasurer's Report –Bill Folsom - Attachment C
9. Secretary's Report – Christa Hay Attachment D
10. Fundraising Committee – Open
11. 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 Engel  
**Passed unanimously**
  - Kappler : New member outreach, Introduction to civic/conservation groups, Suggestions for board member involvement
  - Engel: I would like to discuss exploration rules for our preserves. Specifically, 1) should we require groups doing exploration to tell the manager(s) what they are finding? And 2) Should we have survey as you go rules? Motion in new business.
  - VCA conservation project
    - *The VCA shall dedicate one activity each year, which may be a regular monthly activity or an additional activity, to a conservation project work day at a local cave or cave preserve.*

*Such projects may include, but are not limited to: trash cleanup and removal; graffiti removal; sinkhole cleanup; surface trail construction and maintenance; landscaping; maintenance of informational signs and kiosks; or any other work necessary to protect caves and maintain cave preserves.*

*The responsibility for organizing this work day yearly shall fall to the current VCA President, Vice-President, and Conservation Chair, in collaboration with the NCC Preserve Manager or land owner of the property in question."*

- Art Raferty – Spring NRO , Privacy Campground 5/15- 5/17, 2013 Guidebook, M.Chu to link to website of NRO.
  - Chuck Porter – NEC Publications – Sept 15 will be 1<sup>st</sup> time on web. All NEC on a CD
  - Kappler – Karst Informational Portal – all NSS publications to be placed on web
  - Berger – Internet . [www.ncc.org](http://www.ncc.org) is expiring and for sale. Motion in new business
  - Engel – is it appropriate to approach NSS to manage Gage?. Kappler – NSS has had major restructuring in preserve committee management
  - May 2<sup>nd</sup> clean up at Sellecks
  - Bentleys Management Plan Review
12. Kappler moved to close the Committee of the Whole.  
2<sup>nd</sup> by Traino  
**Passed unanimously**
13. Hay moved to accept the minutes of the December 2014 meeting.  
2<sup>nd</sup> by Engel  
**Passed unanimously**
14. Addis moved the Legal Committee be dissolved.  
2<sup>nd</sup> by Traino  
**Passed unanimously**
15. Folsom moved that the Finance and Investments Committee be dissolved.  
2<sup>nd</sup> by Berger  
**Passed unanimously**
16. Kappler moved Act 01-38 Officer Committee Assignments is amended to read:Act 01-38 Officer Committee Assignments 09/25/05The Committees within The Northeastern Cave Conservancy are organized under each officer as follows:  
President – Acquisitions, Legal, Cave Preserves, Ad Hoc Committees  
Vice President – Science, Education, Special Use, Thacher Park, Surprise Cave  
Treasurer – Fundraising, Office, Membership, Volunteer Value  
Secretary – Bylaws, Nominating, Publications  
  
2<sup>nd</sup> by Folsom  
For: Rest Absent: Traino  
**Passed**
17. Berger moved that the NCC allocates up to \$500 from the development budget to contribute toward the purchase of the NCC.org domain.  
2<sup>nd</sup> by Dumont  
For: Rest Against: Traino  
**Passed**
18. Traino moved that Preserve Managers must be kept updated on all projects.  
2<sup>nd</sup> by Engel  
This is to be inserted 2<sup>nd</sup> to last sentence in Exploration Rules.  
Youngbaer moved to table  
2<sup>nd</sup> by Chu  
**Passed unanimously**
19. Kappler moved to adopt Bentleys Management Plan with the following:  
Access Policy: "Bentley is currently open year round"  
Use Conflicts: change to "bat survey" and add Jonahs statement  
Surface Management: delete last paragraph "Conservation easement"  
Future plans: delete all current paragraphs and add "Kiosk poster shall be updated with the current recommendations of the risk management committee."  
Access Policy : add "at the request of the town of Berlin"  
Remove "Completed work #2 from draft management plan and move it to report to president."  
2<sup>nd</sup> by ???  
**Passed unanimously**
20. Folsom moved that Jose Martinez be appointed fundraising Chair.  
2<sup>nd</sup> by Youngbaer  
**Passed unanimously**
21. Informational Point: Executive committee meeting will be May 5 at 7:00 pm.

22. Addis moved that the next NCC Board meeting will be June 7<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am. Location TBD  
2<sup>nd</sup> by Woodell  
**Passed unanimously**
23. Addis moved to thank Alan Traino for hosting the meeting.  
2<sup>nd</sup> by Dumont  
**Passed unanimously**
24. Addis moved to adjourn  
2<sup>nd</sup> by Engel  
**Passed unanimously**

Meeting adjourned at 2:52

### **Attachment A President's Report**

It's been a very hard, long winter in the Northeast but there's signs that it is over and that we can finally plan on getting outside again and visit the caves. Undoubtedly the winter has been hard on the NCC Preserves as well, so keep looking for announcements of workdays at our properties. Come out and enjoy sunshine and the companionship of fellow cavers working together for the NCC!

#### **Acquisition Progress**

**Schoharie County** The owners, [REDACTED] want to donate acreage surrounding [REDACTED] to the NCC as a permanent steward for the resource. Chuck Porter, Mike B. and Kevin Dumont have all been talking to [REDACTED] and walking the land. Mike B. prepared some drawings and Chuck Porter and I attended the 2/19/15 Town of Wright Planning Board meeting to present our first thoughts on the project. The Board was very receptive to our plans and had a few requirements to add. The complication here, and isn't there always at least one, is the parking. Since [REDACTED] is a State highway we must approach the NYS DOT to seek approval to park on what appears to be the State's land taken when [REDACTED] was realigned several years ago. Chuck and Thom Engel will go to Binghamton District 9 to open discussions with DOT. Thom talked to ROW Asst.

**Schoharie County** In my periodic drive-about mode I often visit cave landowners to "chat" – That's one part of my job. I stopped by to visit [REDACTED] owners of [REDACTED] and several promising digs and smaller caves off [REDACTED]. Over the next few months (a year?) they are selling their farmland, house and barns and moving from the area and were very happy to see me. From our previous discussions over the years, they want the NCC to have their karst area. Before the listing of the farmland is the time for the NCC to negotiate and we have just begun.

**Other Possibilities** I will add that there are "a couple of more" in the very early stages of talking. Stay tuned to the NCC!

**NCC Management** Over the winter the Trustees wrote a letter to the Officers requesting more hands-on management of the 24 Committees that the Officers oversee. In a partial response I wrote a five page Cave Preserve Managers' Manual codifying policies and procedures to be followed at each Preserve. Overall there was a positive response to the Managers' Manual and it will take effect by the June 2015 meeting. I have more work to do with the other committees which I oversee, and you will notice similar efforts by the other Officers.

#### **Reports**

##### **Acquisitions Committee Report – Chuck Porter**

We are proceeding with acquiring [REDACTED], generously offered for donation by the [REDACTED]. Christa Hay researched property ownership and Mike Bourgeois drew a sketch plan showing the proposed 3-acre preserve. Bob Addis and I attended the Town of Wright Planning Board meeting in Gallupville, NY on 19 Feb and they have requested additional info which we will present at a future Planning Board meeting. The next main task is to determine parking arrangements. At least two more meetings with the Planning Board lie ahead, one of which would include a public hearing, as well as notifying adjacent landowners, publishing a

legal notice, the land survey, and the closing itself. Thom Engel is working on a management plan for the preserve.

Bob Addis and I met with [REDACTED] on March 14. They are planning to sell their lands in the Town of Carlisle, Schoharie County, and offered to carve out a cave preserve for us. This would include [REDACTED] and several other pits/insurgences. It looks like we could have a long, narrow preserve which might total only a couple acres, or more if we include part of a field in which a tractor fell into a pit. Parking would be along [REDACTED]. All these caves and pits are fairly small, but they have good potential to open into a larger system and it's an important karst area. No price has yet been discussed and we will first need to investigate the lands more closely when the snow is gone.

### **Tory's Cave Report – Bob Simmons**

Been quiet all winter. The cave has been closed to visitation and has iced up (similar to Knox). Tried to coordinate a bat count early in the season with CT DEEP, but got no response from them before the cave iced shut. Will continue to work on management options with conservancy. Planning a conservation day at the cave as soon as weather allows safe access and may coordinate cave visits during CT Trails Day in early June, as one of the state blue trails crosses the preserve.

I will be attending the Connecticut Land Conservation Conference on March 21 repping the NCC and HRP Assoc.

### **Bentleys – Jonah Spivak**

Management Plan Review – this has been sent to all board members

There will be a cave cleanup at Bentleys on March 22, led by John Dunham and sponsored by the VCA. I will send an addendum to my report once the work is completed. I won't be at the NCC meeting due to this conflict.

ADDENDUM: Chuck Porter and I attended the Rensselaer Plateau Alliance meeting on March 5 regarding development of regional trail systems. Options including the Bentleys Cave Preserve as part of an East-West connector were discussed, with our concerns over any trail placement near sensitive areas (such as cave entrances) being expressed. Overall we stated our support for the RPA efforts. We will keep you posted on this.

### **Merlins Cave Preserve – Morgan Ingalls**

Problems: None.

Plans: Boston Grotto will be helping clear trails in the spring. The cave will reopen 15 May 2015

Progress: Alan talked to the guys who made the fort last year and they've been doing some digging with Mike T. down in the Pittsfield, MA area. Seems like maybe we're making progress towards making them more conservation and safety minded cavers (I have yet to meet them). Otherwise, it's been a quiet winter at Merlins.

### **Ella Armstrong Cave Preserve – Alan Traino**

Progress: The preserve was visited 2 times in this quarter. Cave was entered both times. The snow this year, made it almost impossible to park. Seems even with the high snow the cave had good visitation this winter. Another reason was that the trail was nicely packed.

Problems: The only issue is that in high snow the parking lot is not accessible. Poster needs to be replaced.

Plan: Ella Armstrong continues to see a lot of visitation. I feel that the preserve overall is in great shape. Consider having Ella preserve Plowed during the winter as the Knox lot is not plowed and is closed during the winter. Possibility adding a cave register to the kiosk, for NCC info. And replace the posters

### **Sellecks Cave Preserve – Alan Traino**

Progress: Preserved was visited one time. Winter snows made it impossible to get into the parking lot. No visitation was evident.

Problems: The whole preserve is in need of a Major work weekend for sure. All of the trail markers are gone, as are the boundary markers. All trails need to be recut and remarked. The Kiosk is in need of new posters. As of my last visit in the fall, Levy's needs to be dug open. Looks as if the whole entrance area has changed. This will require a major digging effort on its own. Spring melt will make it interesting to see how it affects the cave. The parking lot also is need of some work to.

Plans: I would like to ask the board to help in the scheduling of a work weekend on the property. Have a 2 day cleanup with overnight camping. Thinking sometime in late May or early June. I will begin as soon as I can get onto the property. As early as this weekend.

### **Knox Cave Preserve Report – Mitch Berger**

Progress: We assisted a member's daughter with background and historical information for a school project (she's writing a work of fiction centered around caving). Mitch visited to do a winter checkup on February 1. There were no signs of trouble or unauthorized visitation, but an impressive number of branches will need to be cleared when the snow melts. There are also a couple large trees that have uprooted and we might want to remove, but they fell away from the trail. One Crossbones permit was requested, but after discussing the recent snow situation and the possibility of bat presence, the requester decided to go elsewhere until later in the year.

Problems: None at this time.

Plans: Periodic checkups over the winter. Trail maintenance (both trails) after snowfall season ends. Cleaning up the mish-mash of posting efforts that have resulted in three different types of signage, none of which are the NCC's standard yellow markers.

### **Bensons Report – Luke Mazza**

Progress: With the cave closed and the preserve snowed in I haven't done anything on the property besides an inspection. With the warmer weather coming I'll be looking to get moving on the plans mentioned below.

New plans: I've realized that the kiosk poster should probably mention something about the cave closure dates, just from an informational perspective. This is something that can be added the next time the poster needs updating.

Ongoing plans: Parking area, visitor register (?), extending trails, finishing off the boundary markers, chain gate for ROW, finish trash cleanup in the one sinkhole.

Problems: One possible item for discussion is that I recently received notice of blasting going on at the quarry just an hour before it was scheduled to happen. As usual, blasting is only happening during weekdays and so isn't likely to coincide with a trip, but the short notice was concerning to me. There have been no trips to Bensons since the last report. I conducted a property inspection on 3/10/15 and found no signs of visitation (with old snow on the ground). The kiosk is holding up well and everything was in order.

### **Clarksville Cave Preserve – Mike Chu, Thom Engel, Chuck Porter**

The preserve has been in use. Due to the amount of snow the parking area has been plowed several times. We will be talking to Steve Crooks, our neighbor, about him using his track hoe downstream of Osborn. \$75 donation from Thom Engel for snowplowing.

### **Onesquethaw Cave Preserve – Thom Engel**

Nothing much to report. Since that last report, there have been 5 trips with a total of 38 individuals. For CY2014, there were a total of 35 permitted trips with a total of 197 participants. This is a mean group size of 5.6. Median group size is 5. Smallest group was 3. Largest was 12. Survey or property is in budget.

**Attachment B**  
**Vice President's Report**

**NCC Manual**

Nine pages of the manual were updated after the December meeting and posted to the web a few days later.

President Addis noticed that the Obligations of Care Law (sportsmen's law), Appendix B, was an older version that did not specifically include "speleological activities." Bob and other members of the Risk Committee quickly located the current version of the law. I edited Appendix B by inserting the new version of the law and within a few hours the manual plus a new stand alone page of the law was sent to webmaster Mike to be posted.

**Management Plans**

All preserve management plans were updated to include the Assumption of Risk Statement (Act 21-109) approved at the December meeting.

**EC Conference Call**

The conference call was held on February 17. We discussed several initiatives and issues:

- Actual progress on the Spider Cave donation
- Church and Wagon Wheel Caves - attempts to contact the owner, review of tax maps and an old property appraisal
- NCC letter for donations made in 2014

**Other**

I received and responded to numerous emails since the December meeting. The majority fell into several distinct categories including: management plans - communicating with some of the managers while updating MPs per recent board action; Risk Committee – discussed aspects and status of projects we're working on; [REDACTED] - status of a pending donation and discussions on how/when to approach property owner about NCC acquiring caves; and volunteer value entries.

After consulting with the EC and Risk Committee, I ordered signs printed with the NCC assumption of risk statement for all preserve kiosks. Our new brochures and kiosk displays will contain the statement but they may not be ready for the start of the traditional caving season. These smaller signs will alert visitors to potential danger as recommended by our attorney.

I assisted the president in preparing and mailing personalized end of year letters to NCC Life Members.

**Committee Reports**

The Science Committee is the only committee currently assigned to the VP. The Thacher Park and Surprise Cave Committees are not assigned to an officer but are included here. Reports are included as received with VP comments or additional information in *italics*.

**Thacher Park**

Thom Engel, Chairman

Chris Fallon, who was the park manager, has taken another job elsewhere in OPRHP. A new manager should be on board by May. Our permit specifies that we must inform the park manager at least 72 hours prior to trips done under the permit. I am not sure how that will proceed until a manager is on board.

Update : John Lowe is the interim manager

**Surprise Cave**

Bob Simmons, Chairman

I have sent multiple emails and left voice mail for Pat Vissering at NYS DEC trying to get some confirmation of the renewal of our AANR. Also reported that the gate/lock had been violated earlier this year. She has occasionally responded concerning the gate and it being OK for us to go there, etc. but still nothing in the way of official paperwork. I will keep efforting that until we get some resolution.

Plans for the upcoming year include:

1. two to three open weekends for recreational caving, including a possible Fall NRO.
2. a rescue preplanning visit (NJIRT) and a possible mock with local EMS/NYSDEC.
3. gate reinforcement, in furtherance of replacement.

All the above are dependent on getting DEC to confirm.

3/20 - Update to Surprise Cave Committee Report:

I spoke with Pat Vissering yesterday (finally). She reports that she has been trying to get an internal DEC stakeholders meeting organized to discuss a number of the proposals I had put forward as possible activities under our renewed AANR, and that was why she had not completed the renewal process. She did not think that such a meeting was likely in the near future and so we decided that the AANR renewal would go forward without waiting for the meeting. She has told me that we should have it by the first week of April.

I asked her about recreational visits this year. She said that she was personally not in favor of recreational caving there at this time, but others in the Department might overrule her. I will start scheduling conservation visits and rescue training trips.

### **Science Committee**

R. Laurence Davis, Chairman

Clarksville Project (Espinaza) -there has been no activity here at all. I understand that Dr. Espinoza had some health issues. I understand that you have seen some proposals out there for funding so this one looks like it still might become "active." (*This is the DNA sequencing project approved 03/09/14. In our phone conversation, I mentioned that I had seen a request for funding from the NSS for a similar project which caused Dr. Davis and I to speculate that the researcher may be seeking funding before starting the project.*)

Knox USGS WNS project-the field work for this project is now complete. We received periodic "progress" reports, on time, from this group. Basically all they said was "we went into the cave and collected samples". They completed their data collection in the fall and all materials have been removed from the cave. It is likely to be some time (1+ years?) before we get any final report on this project as Knox was just one of a network of caves that they studied. The USGS is notoriously slow to review and approve publication and they are equally fastidious about not releasing preliminary results. (*This project was approved 06/10/12. There is a progress report from this group attached to the 06/09/13 minutes.*)

Hicks fungal control project. I have heard nothing about this at all. It was approved quickly and then went off my radar. I have received no reports from them. I am not sure what the status is. (*This project was approved 09/09/12 and is commonly referred to as the Hicks Project by the NCC because Al Hicks is a consultant.*)

(*As the risk committee worked on the web site they decided we should have a separate section for Research. I asked Dr. Davis if it was appropriate for the NCC to put research and publication abstracts of NCC approved proposals on our site and are there any limitations we should be aware of when describing the projects.*)

I do believe that we should put the abstract of the research proposals on the web site and, once projects are completed, the abstracts of any publications. I think that it is OK to put the names of the researchers up, but not contact information for them.

### **Education**

Thom Engel, Chairman

I met at Clarksville with a hydrology class from Williams College and explained karst hydrology. I will be unable to attend the annual STEM event at Shenendahowa on April 24 due to a family commitment. 200+/- people 9-10 grade

### **Attachment C Treasurer's Report March 13, 2015**

The Bensons Preserve is now officially off the tax rolls going forward, with the paperwork submitted and verified prior to the 3/1/15 deadline. I also verified with the Town of Canaan that we did not have to resubmit paperwork to them to remain off the tax rolls (Merlins Preserve).

I spoke with NBT Bank to see if we could get better than our current 0.050% rate on the Money Market account and was told that we would have to purchase Certificates of Deposit to get a better rate of return. When pressed, the representative stated that a visit to our local branch may actually get us a better rate on this account.

I prompted Paypal to start giving us lower fees since we are a non-profit. The rate went down to 2.2%, formerly 2.9%. When we applied for Paypal years ago there was no special rate for non-profits.

The search for a Fundraising Chair is ongoing. After recently re-posting it across the regional grotto and NCC Facebook pages, I received one inquiry. Casting a broader net in person via grotto presentations about the NCC may attract new volunteers.

Northeastern Cave Conservancy Inc  
 Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual  
 January 1 through March 9, 2015

03/09/2015

	Actual	
	Jan 1 - Mar 9, 15	Budget 15
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
Donations		
Auction Donations	0.00	2,500.00
Donations - Other	1,283.41	4,760.00
Total Donations	1,283.41	7,260.00
Interest Earned	2.15	5.00
Membership Income	170.00	4,500.00
Total Income	1,455.56	11,765.00
Expense		
Acquisitions	0.00	2,000.00
Bank Charges	5.51	30.00
Development	0.00	500.00
Donations-outgoing	0.00	200.00
Easements	0.00	0.00
Education	0.00	100.00
Executive		
President	0.00	150.00
Secretary	0.00	75.00
Treasurer	0.00	275.00
VP	0.00	75.00
Total Executive	0.00	575.00
Insurance	0.00	1,450.00
Legal Fees	10.00	1,000.00
Licenses & Permits	0.00	50.00
Meeting Expense	0.00	100.00
Membership Expenses	0.00	100.00
Miscellaneous	0.00	100.00
Office Expense	0.00	100.00
Postage	0.00	100.00
Preserves-Maintenance		
Bensons	0.00	250.00
Bentleys	0.00	600.00
Clarksville	50.00	300.00
Ella Armstrong	0.00	100.00
Knox	0.00	200.00
Merlins	0.00	200.00
Onesquethaw	0.00	1,000.00
Sellecks	0.00	200.00
Total Preserves-Maintenance	50.00	2,850.00
Printing	0.00	500.00
Promotion/Fundraising	0.00	1,100.00
Publishing		
Mailings	0.00	50.00



Website	0.00	60.00
Total Publishing	0.00	110.00
Sponsorships	200.00	500.00
Taxes on Properties	121.19	300.00
Total Expense	386.70	11,765.00
Net Ordinary Income	1,068.86	0.00
Other Income/Expense		
Other Income		
In Kind donations	0.00	0.00
Net Gain or Loss from NSF Fund	0.00	0.00
Volunteer Value	3,974.00	0.00
Total Other Income	3,974.00	0.00
Other Expense		
In Kind Out	0.00	0.00
Volunteer Value Exp	3,974.00	0.00
Total Other Expense	3,974.00	0.00
Net Other Income	0.00	0.00
Net Income	1,068.86	0.00

**Finance & Investments Committee Report - Joe Levinson:**

No reply to Treasurer request for report. Email sent 3/5/15. Secretary requested report on 2/23/15.

**Membership Committee – Peter Youngbaer:**

Our membership has set another new record – one more than last quarter. There are **171** in the database and the Office Committee reported one more new member, but he's not yet entered as I don't yet have the contact information, nor his level of membership.

All renewal notices for memberships up through April have been sent, and new memberships and renewals have been acknowledged and entered into the database. It is current as of March 12. Second reminders were sent to all February and March renewals who had not yet responded. We continue to send lapsed notices (third notices) to those whose membership expired in the last six months.

Our current membership stands as follows, compared to the baseline of April 22, 2012:

<u>March 12, 2015</u>	<u>April 22, 2012</u>
Life: 36	Life: 18
Family Life: 6	Family Life: 0
Benefactor: 12	Benefactor: 10
Regular: 98	Regular: 88
Family: 15	Family: 16
Student: 0	Student: 0
Institutional: 4	Institutional: 3
TOTAL: 171	TOTAL: 135

**Office Committee Report - Emily Davis & Mike Warner:**

Problems: Out of town too much. Got the tax letters out to everyone who donated over \$50 but had the wrong date on them. Plan to send them again before the meeting. Will not be at the meeting.

Progress: Will be caught up before the meeting.

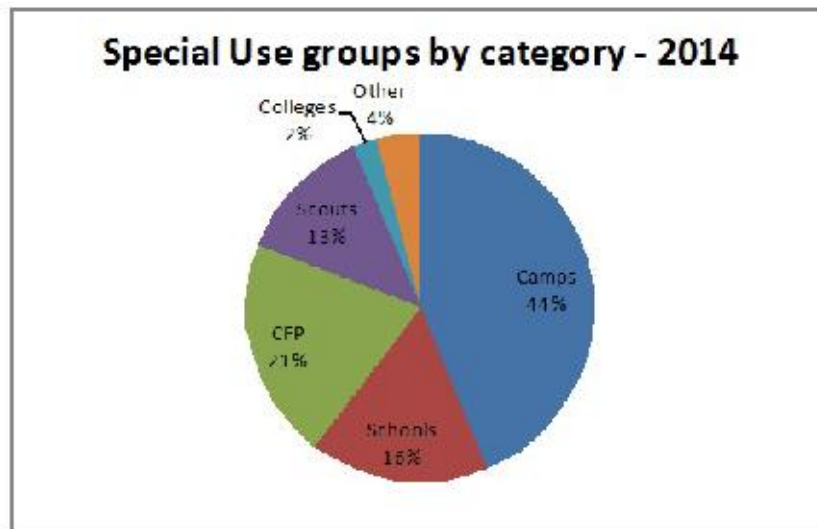
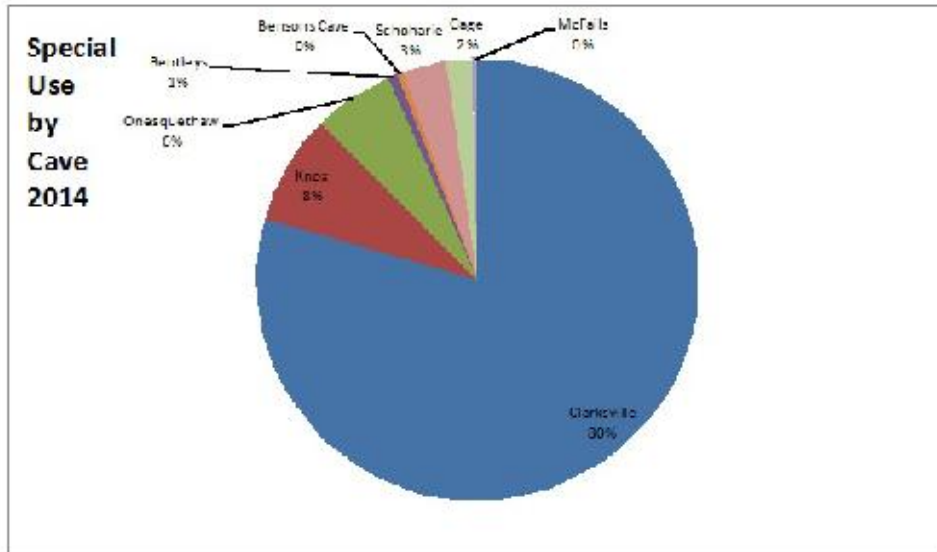
Plans: catch up

**Special Use Committee** - Thom Engel:

Special Groups – Since the last meeting a total of 13 permits have been issued. We are already getting scheduling requests for the summer.

Attached is the year-end report for 2014.

### Special Use Report for CY 2014



CFP = Cave for Pay. Other includes incarceration schools, churches, and municipal youth services. Schools include both private and public schools.

**Volunteer Value Committee** – Vince Kappler:

Progress:

The below chart shows that we are reasonably consistent in the hours members contribute to the NCC with the increases in yearly totals typically occurring when we acquire a new preserve or launch a new initiative. Many thanks to all who have supported the NCC Mission over the years and have reported their personal contributions to the preservation of karst in the northeast.

**VOLUNTEER VALUE STATS**

	<b>Hours</b>	<b>Miles</b>	<b>Dollar Value</b>
2006	1389.5	20,862	\$29,955.00
2007	1571.5	14,607	\$35,542.00
2008	1680.5	14,143	\$36,926.00
2009	1440.5	10,442	\$39,564.00
2010	1234.0	10,949	\$42,211.00
2011	1546.0	14,118	\$54,684.00
2012	1483.5	13,951	\$51,605.00
2013	1916.5	20,522	\$70,268.00
2014	1124.0	17,106	\$46,962.00
			<b>\$377,762.00</b> <b>TOTAL</b>

The IRS has increased the mileage rate for 2015 to \$.575 per mile which is the amount we will use to calculate our VV dollar totals.

2015 VV totals to date: 141.75 hours and \$3974.00

I took a very quick look at the VV stats over the years and they actually seem to be fairly consistent when we consider that several years (2006 and 2013) had unusual projects that haven't been repeated.

2006 (first year for VV) and 2013 had the highest number of data entries, 228 and 219 respectively. Large volunteer events in 2006 included extensive work at Clarksville, Baugh Cave, and West Fall Spring. The big projects for 2013 included cleaning up the storm damage at the Gregory entrance, the four caver events in Thacher Park, and the one at Surprise Cave.

We acquired Bensons in 2014 but that was the only major activity of the year thus we didn't document the hours we've seen previously when we took on additional projects.

Plans:

I will send periodic VV reminders to the membership and monitor data collection.

Problems:

None at this time

**Attachment D  
Secretary Report**

Minutes were sent out to the board. Plan is to go back to my sending out minutes within two weeks of the meeting as to weeks before the meeting. I was not sure which was better for people but have not had feedback so I am going with just after the meeting. Minutes have been updated on the website other than the December minutes which have not been approved yet. There is the one set of minutes missing due to laptop crash.

I contacted Carl Herzog for a presentation but due to where this meeting is being held I told him I did not expect him to drive or take his whole day. I will let him know when the next meeting is and hopefully he will be able to attend.

**Bylaws Committee- Joe Levinson**

- Nothing to report

**Publications Committee – Christa Hay**

- Newsletter sent out. 106 clicks on link to newsletter.
- I have been working with Whispering Pines Design for the general public brochure since last Fall. The layout was completed but no photos. Some are coming in now from members but I am still in need of surface photos. I plan on heading out once it greens up if no surface photos are received from members. The woman I have been working with has had her whole family sick for much of the winter so she has not been available. We have a meeting setup for late April.
- The preserve brochures are to be done by the preserve manager as discussed in previous meetings. I will set up a template to help get that ball rolling. The preserve brochures do not need to be on quality paper. The thought will be to have the template and pass along to all preserve managers to fill in some of the text. They can then be responsible for updates as needed and printing. If they need help they can contact me.
- MailChimp – I have several templates set up and will be tweaking them some more. Those sending out emails please let me know what you would like to see on the email specific to your email blasts. You can see the basic layout from the recent emails.

**Website Subcommittee- Mike Chu**

- Website has been maintained on an as needed basis (when updates are sent in). There are some larger updates to the site, such as the ability for special use groups to log in and see preserve schedules, etc, that I have discussed with the special use coordinator, but have not been implemented. I do not believe I will have time to do this anytime soon, so if we want this functionality I would suggest posting in the newsletter or asking around for someone else that is willing/able to take on the task.

**Nominating Committee Report – Bob Simmons**

- Board Elections will be held later this Spring using the electronic system as last year. Thom Engel, Alan Traino and Peter Youngbaer's terms are up in 2015. All have indicated they will sit for reelection. No new candidates have confirmed as of now. Ads for Board candidates and Fundraising Chair ran in most recent Newsletter.

**EC Minutes February 17, 2015**

Bob Addis, Bill Folsom, Vince Kappler, Paul Woodell, Christa Hay (towards end – Bob took minutes)

1. [REDACTED] is a state rd.
  - a. We need a letter of intent from the owner - I will contact Christine.
  - b. Thurs' meeting is for information and getting the Planning Board's input.
2. [REDACTED] - Chuck & Roland are trying to find the old appraisal. Bob to contact Pat Walker, owner.
3. Science Committee
  - a. No feed back from [REDACTED] No status from Larry on 4 projects. Need Larry's report by the end of Feb.
  - b. Webpage redesign - Research should be listed Larry to list status on the website.
4. End of year Letter & Tax Letter for the donors - 30 letters sent out. Office report: \$1700 donations for Dec & Jan. Office to send out tax letters for donors - Vince
5. Knox chairs discussion.
6. Meeting Minutes - Some not posted on the website. Mike & Christa