

NORTHEASTERN CAVE CONSERVANCY, INC

**Minutes**

June 3, 2018 11:00 AM

Melrose, NY

Meeting called to order at 11:23am

1. Introduction and greetings – Robert Simmons
2. Attendance  
Officers: R. Simmons, T. Engel, M. Berger, B. Folsom  
Trustees: M. Chu, D. Hedges, J. Morris-Siegel, P. Rubin, A. Traino, C. Young
3. Absent with proxy: None
4. Absent without designated proxy: M. Ingalls, W. Russell  
The board may appoint a proxy from the members in attendance.  
[P. Youngbaer and E. Davis unanimously appointed as proxies]
5. Nominating Committee Report on Trustee Elections (N. Berg)  
See Nominating Committee Report in Attachment A
6. New Trustees are seated  
Welcome to Ramon Armen
7. Officers' Reports  
President: Attachment A  
Vice President: Attachment B  
Treasurer: Attachment C  
Secretary: Attachment D
8. Simmons moves to open the Committee of the Whole. The Vice president will preside. Items may be entered as new business.  
Second by Rubin  
For: Rest  
Against: Traino  
[Committee of the Whole is opened]  
  
Topics:
  1. Confidentiality Issues (Simmons)  
Simmons noted that there have been some instances recently where confidential information had appeared outside of a Board audience and reminded all that information from confidential topics is not to leave the room. Berger noted that in some cases, this is important to avoid spoiling acquisition deals in progress, and in others, it can have possible legal repercussions (for example, if the NCC enters into an NDA).
  2. Clarksville off-season access/control issues/parties/bats/gate/etc. (Simmons)  
It was noted that illegal visitation has definitely occurred, due to finding beer cans and graffiti during the winter. Rubin gave an impassioned speech about possible ways to reopen the cave year-round. Davis reported that the Ad-hoc Hibernaculum Committee and DEC had been working on getting Onesquethaw reopened, but the USFWS seems unwilling to discuss it. The topic of acquiring a take permit for Clarksville was raised, and resulted in spirited discussion. Davis is against this, and also notes that it would be extraordinarily expensive and require a lawyer if we decided to pursue that path. Berger inquired whether grants for the legal fees involved in pursuing something like this where the justification has to do with the lost opportunities for conservation and education are possible, and Young replied that they might be. Berger and Youngbaer are in favor of investigating this path and Berger noted that his understanding is that in some cases, take permits have been granted with some portion of the required mitigation taking the form of acquiring and closing an alternative suitable habitat for protection, rather than strict financial outlay. Youngbaer also noted that a private cave owner could choose to blast their cave shut, which would deny its use by bats as a hibernaculum, and that if one of the species recorded as being present at some point in the cave were fully listed as endangered, rather than just threatened, one of the differences is that there would be a rating system for the impact of each location on the species' ability to survive, and Clarksville would be off the scale (on the negligible end of the scale). Berger inquired whether others had perceived a shift in the degree of obedience of the closure that we're seeing, and Engel indicated that he, too, is unsure. Young notes that the upcoming grant work

will, in part, be studying this. There is a study related to this that Youngbaer plans to send to us. Davis will be meeting with C. Herzog and other DEC folks for vertical practice on July 9 and can inquire about take permits. Simmons says that while we obviously want caves open in the winter, our best opportunity is Onesquethaw. Traino thinks rather than attempting to get a take permit for Clarksville, we should work on acquiring a new cave that's not recorded as having any of the affected species, though Berger worries that while this might work at the outset, if there's ever a count at such a cave that finds one of the involved species, we're back to square 1. Note was also made that since we've been told the tricolored is on its way to being listed in NY, even if we get a take permit for the Northern long-eared, we might have to begin all over once that happens. The short summary is that everyone is quite frustrated with the situation, passionate about wanting to find a way forward, and the best solution is not evident enough for there to be universal agreement on it.

3. [REDACTED]

4. [REDACTED] (Simmons)  
*E-mailed about previously.*

[REDACTED]

5. Clarksville Heritage Day ad (\$30?) and representation (Berger)

*In March, we noted that we usually purchase a \$30 ad and that we should list it as an agenda item for this meeting. Additionally, possible leads for folks who might be willing to represent us came out of the EC meeting and should be followed up on.*

Engel noted that we usually purchase a 1/8 page ad, Davis reported that a check has already been sent for it. Hedges is willing to represent the NCC at the event; Engel will provide him with a Powerpoint presentation he has on Clarksville, and will contact the event organizers to let them know that we'll be present.

6. Knox Cave Preserve Management Plan (Berger)

Berger explained that he'd reviewed the most recently approved plan, and not found items to recommend for alterations at this time, as the previous update was substantial and happened subsequent to the major events that occurred at the preserve a couple of years ago, incorporating changes that reflected our learnings from those events [the events are the subject of Executive Session discussions of the Board, and are only being vaguely referenced here so that this section of the minutes need not be redacted]. He also described some confusion that he and Rubin experienced upon finding that the version of the plan on the website is not the most recently approved plan, and also does not appear to match what they believe the next most recent version of the plan to be. It's unclear what exactly occurred here; it's likely that the launch of the new website is involved, but that alone doesn't fully explain this. Comments were made that, even if the manager does not recommend changes, other reviews should be solicited. The idea that all managers should be asked to verify that their plans on the website are the correct versions. An idea was floated about creating a position like "Management Plan Wrangler," and Berger noted that some of the beginnings of work for a project to make that possible had been discussed some time back, and that Ingalls had produced a first draft of a template for managing the static boilerplate for plans.

7. NCC Representation at Convention, OTR, etc. (Berger)

Convention: Davis will set up the banner and contact the organizers for space. Berger, Morris-Siegel, Engel, Armen, and Ingalls will likely attend and could be designated representatives to attend relevant meetings.

OTR: Youngbaer and Berger plan to attend and represent the NCC. Davis notes that when the booth isn't staffed, a sign can be put up stating that anyone wishing to pay dues can do so at Speleobooks. She also said that she'd contact the vendor coordinator to reserve our space.

8. Grant Updates

We've been granted \$26,000 by the NYSCPP for the LTA-administered program we applied to. Ingalls will be the scientist running the project, which will collect data on human trespass, temperature and humidity, and bat acoustics. Berger agreed to wrangle and track volunteers, and will partner with Davis on project management. The project is planned to include data from Bensons, Ella Armstrong, Knox, Bensons, Onesquethaw, Merlins, Dragon Bones, and Clarksville (possibly not an exhaustive list).

9. Management Plan reviews

Morris-Siegel suggested that perhaps we should drop the formal schedule. Berger noted that prior to the previous round of reviews, the review process had been neglected for years, and when we resumed working on them, the first round was extremely time-consuming and resulted in many substantial changes. Multiple reviews in this round have taken very little time because they're relatively recently reviewed, and there is concern that if we drop the schedule, we might fall into the pattern of neglect and being very out of date once again. Simmons noted that it's always acceptable for a manager to recommend updates even when they're not scheduled, and it's also acceptable for a manager to conduct a review and report that there are no recommended changes when they are scheduled.

9. Simmons moves to close the Committee of the Whole.

Second by Berger

For: Rest

Against: Traino, Morris-Siegel

[Committee of the Whole is closed]

#### Old Business

10. Berger moves: Article VI Section 5 of the Bylaws is amended as follows:

“Vacancies. The Trustees may appoint a person to fill any vacancy among the Officers. Such person shall serve only until the next annual meeting, but shall be eligible for nomination and election **to complete the appropriate term remaining, or, if they are appointed during the final year of an officer's term,** for a full term as of that annual meeting.”

Second by Engel

For: Rest

Against: Traino

*Discussion: See Item 17 of the March meeting minutes. This correction should have been made at the time we staggered and extended officer terms. Without it, appointment of someone to fill an officer vacancy during the first year of a two-year term would have the unintentional side effect of unstaggering that position's term as of the next annual meeting. This item was tabled at the last meeting and announced to the membership per Article XII (Amendments) of the Bylaws. All members present at this meeting are eligible to vote on it.*

[Article VI Section 5 of the Bylaws is amended as worded above.]

#### New Business

11. Simmons moves that the President is authorized to sign an NDA with [REDACTED].

Second by Traino

For: Rest

Against: Traino, Morris-Siegel

Abstain: Davis

[The President is authorized to sign the specified NDA.]

12. Engel moves that Morris-Siegel, Engel, Ingalls, Berger, and Armen are appointed to represent the NCC at Convention.

Second by Traino

For: All

[Morris-Siegel, Engel, Ingalls, Berger, and Armen are NCC representatives to the NSS Convention]

Informational point: Next EC meeting will be August 19, 2018 at 10 AM at Speleobooks.

Informational point: the Fall Board meeting will be September 23, 2018 at 10 AM, location TBD.

[This may be the day after the Barn Dance, and Davis will look into a tentative plan to hold it at the Octagon Barn.]

Informational point: the late Fall EC meeting will be Sunday October 28 at 10 AM, location TBD.

13. Simmons moves: The NCC Winter meeting will be December 9 at 10 AM at Speleobooks.

Second by Engel

For: All

[The Winter meeting is scheduled for December 9 at 10 AM at Speleobooks]

14. Simmons moves to thank Mike Chu and Cristina Estrada for hosting this NCC meeting.

Second by Berger

For: All

[The NCC's appreciation is expressed to Mike and Cristina.]

15. Simmons moves to adjourn.

Second by Morris-Siegel

For: Rest

Against: Traino, Hedges, Youngbaer, Armen, Morris-Siegel

[The meeting is adjourned, albeit by such a thin margin that those amusing themselves by voting against it were unable to explain what precisely we would have done had they achieved a majority.]

Meeting adjourned at 2:39pm

## Attachment A President's Report

Since the March meeting we've had an uptick in activity on a number of fronts:

1. Acquisitions, in addition to the Clarksville addition and Salamander Preserves (surveys of both properties nearing completion), we have been working on a potential purchase of the [REDACTED], a possible donation of [REDACTED], a potential Conservation Easement on [REDACTED] and have begun discussions with [REDACTED].
2. Thacher Park work days are scheduled for: June 23, July 14, August 25, and September 15.
3. Caves for sale: [REDACTED].
4. Several folks attended the NY and MA Land Trust conferences this spring with good input and more importantly connections made.
5. Efforts for our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration are coming together for October 20<sup>th</sup> at SUNY Cobleskill.

### Cave Preserve Management Plan Review Schedule

Year	March	June	September	December
2018	Ella Armstrong	<b>Knox</b>		Sellecks
2019	Bensons	Merlins		Onesquethaw
2020	Spider	Clarksville		Bentleys
2021	Ella Armstrong	Knox		Sellecks
2022	Bensons	Merlins		Onesquethaw
2017	Spider	Clarksville		Bentleys

Note: We established a policy of having the Preserve manager doing his MP review to write an article for the newsletter that same period. In retrospect, this is more work for the manager in a short time when he/she should be focused on the MP. I would propose that going forward, the article be done by the manager whose plan was just reviewed the previous meeting, that gives a chance to include any new items or issues that were approved under a no pressure situation.

### CAVE PRESERVE REPORTS:

#### 1. Bensons (Luke Mazza)

Progress: Inspected the property on 05/29. Performed some trail maintenance, mowed the right of way, and sectioned up two trees that had fallen across the trail. The property is in ship-shape for the 2018 caving season. One visitation permit has been issued so far this year.

Issues: No notable issues on the Bensons property. Nearby, initial work has begun on the proposed CSP Howes Cave Quarry expansion. The plan is to tunnel from the existing quarry under Sagendorf Corners Rd over to another parcel owned by CSP containing an area of caves and karst across the road. This will take blasting slightly closer to the Bensons Preserve than it has been in the past. I do not know whether the expansion will impact the far downstream portions of the Secret-Bensons-Barytes system.

Plans: Continued mowing and maintenance throughout the summer months.

#### 2. Bentleys (Devon Hedges)

Progress - Two requests regarding cave access were made and responded to since March. Trail inspection since December includes two tree-falls blocking the trail, to be removed during June/July work days.

Problems - Initial feedback indicates that signage including boilerplate, logos, template are the responsibility of the Preserve Manager; locating or reproducing original files will be part of replacing the signage. Determination on historical interest of plastic siding debris should precede removal.

Plans - Replacing signage at kiosk, rock cairns for trail junctions near old logging paths and areas with sparse overhead foliage, driveway gravel project. Some downed branches and tree areas to clear along with the fording project. Potentially clearing out plastic siding debris.

### **3. Clarksville (Thom Engel)**

A work day was held at Clarksville on 4/21. Repairs were made to the changing area and to the kiosk. In attendance were: Vince Kappler, Emily Davis, Shirley Madewell, Thom Engel, Mike Nardacci, Bob Hyden, Walter Joyce, Devon Hedges, Craig Cantello, Mike Chu, and Paul Rubin.

Mike Bourgeois has completed the Crookes survey. That will add 2.63 acres to the preserve for a total size of 14.5 acres.

The caves are now open and the Restricted Area signs have been removed for the season.

Paul Rubin reports that when he entered the cave on 5/4 with a school group he found evidence of one or more beer parties in the Big Room. These likely occurred in April or later. This raises, again, the question of gating the cave. Should the cave be gated and locked from Oct 1 to May 1? Then the gate could be locked open from May 1 to Oct 1. It is worth discussing.

Mitch Berger reports that as of May 6 in the afternoon an entire face of the wall of the Ward's entrance sinkhole was painted with graffiti. Paul Rubin notes he was in the cave May 5 and it wasn't there. Suggestions for a trail cam have been put forth.

Paul also reports that on May 5 he encountered a Boy Scout troop in the parking lot. He asked them if they had a permit. They told him they did. They lied. No special use permit was issued for a BSA group for 5/5.

On August 4, the Clarksville Historical Society is putting on their annual Clarksville Day and they would like the NCC to participate. This would be at the Clarksville Community Church; not at the cave. Some of us will be in Montana at the NSS Convention and cannot participate this year. We are seeking volunteers. The folks running Clarksville Day would like a virtual tour of the cave and are open to ropes being set up in a tree.

### **4. Ella Armstrong (Alan Traino)**

#### Progress

The preserve has been visited many times over the quarter. Work has been done and the preserve looks to be in great shape. Parking lot has been mowed, trail is clear, and the cave is open for Caving! With all property boundaries checked. Cleaning of the entrance sink may continue over the summer months, with continued improvements to the entrance. All bolts in the cave were checked this past weekend. And all roadside trash removed from both sides.

Wasp spray has been mounted on the kiosk.

#### Problems:

The large dead tree next to the sink hole has fallen right across the entrance and will be removed shortly. Some mud is falling into the entrance and that to will be taken care off.

#### Plans

- 1 Cleanup of the sinkhole and mud.
- 2 Remove dead tree near the entrance.
- 3 Continued monitoring for trash along roadside.
- 4 New hole has opened up on the property, maybe a dig.
- 5 Replace poster and plexiglas over the summer.

### **5. Knox (Mitch Berger)**

#### Progress

- Winter closure signs have been taken down
- Trail checkup happened shortly before opening for the season; plants hadn't really blossomed yet
- In-cave checkup happened early in the season - no signs of new problems
- 5 permits have been issued so far for the season

#### Issues

- There's still a rope at the Great Divide of unknown age/origin
- The trail still has poison ivy and possibly poison parsnip

#### Plans

Periodic property inspection and trail maintenance  
Possible graffiti removal in Knox and investigation of methods  
Addition of trail markers and re-posting of property  
Boundary marking  
Removal of the Great Divide rope  
Investigation of troublesome plant species

#### **6. Merlins (Morgan Ingalls & Jacob Morris-Siegel)**

In March New York DEC conducted a bat count at Merlins Cave. 38 Little Brown Bats were counted.

While conducting the bat count we noticed snowmobile use on the preserve. This seemed to have been a one-time thing since no tracks were seen earlier or later in the winter

Once it finally lost its ice, digging at Dome 12 continued with a dig in early May. We are hoping to dig at the sink throughout the summer.

Since the cave opened for the spring there has only been one trip into the cave. This trip went in to check some unpushed leads and digs. They checked three leads- upstream ends in a narrow crack, high lead in Dome 4 is the same fissure the lower passage is in, lead in the lower loop needs more digging.

They also noticed some of the formations in the Big Room are muddy. We will probably use more flagging and cleaning to attempt to keep people off of them.

Two trips went in during NRO. Morris-Siegel ran a steward training trip the Friday leading into NRO.

#### **7. Onesquethaw (Thom Engel)**

The restricted area sign has been taken down. Nothing significant fell during the winter. The cave has reopened for the season.

As of 05/21/2018, I have issued 4 permits so far this season.

#### **8. Sellecks (Alan Traino)**

Progress:

Preserve is in very nice shape. I was able to mow this past weekend and get the parking lot looking good. Kiosk is also in good shape.

Problems

Nothing noted

Plans:

- Continued monitoring for trash along roadside.
- Trail clearing

#### **9. Spider (Kevin Dumont)**

Progress: One of the parties who had inquired about visiting the cave over the winter ended up visiting in late March. They sent a short email dispatch indicating a successful and enjoyable trip.

Problems: The two partial deer carcasses in the ditch noted in the March report have not been cleaned up, to my knowledge.

Plans: Creation of a trail along both the base and the top of the escarpment is planned for 2018.

#### **OTHER COMMITTEES (PRESIDENT):**

##### **Acquisitions (Chuck Porter)**

Mike Bourgeois continues to work on the land survey for the new 2.6 acre parcel connecting the Ward and Gregory tracts at Clarksville Cave. The owner continues to request changes, even after we've signed a contract and supposedly agreed on boundaries.

A contract has also been signed for the donation of Salamander Cave in Kingston and a survey is underway of that 9.5 acre property, as well as very preliminary discussions on [REDACTED].

Bob Simmons and I recently met with officers of the [REDACTED], which has a conservation easement on the lands that contain [REDACTED]. They may be getting ownership of the whole parcel, do not wish to manage the cave and might donate a parcel containing the cave to us or donate a conservation/access agreement to the cave. These concepts would include either land out to [REDACTED] or a walking easement over the donor's lands.

The [REDACTED] acquisition is now on the back burner due to [REDACTED], but we will continue to monitor the situation.

We have opened very preliminary discussions with [REDACTED] concerning an approach to the [REDACTED] owner of the property containing [REDACTED].

As noted later in this report, we may have an opportunity to obtain a Conservation/Access Restriction over the lands containing [REDACTED] in [REDACTED] County via the company facilitating [REDACTED] on adjacent portions of the property.

### **Nominating (Norm Berg)**

Nominating Committee Report for the June 3, 2018 NCC meeting:

There were five candidates running for four openings.

The winning top three fill the three-year terms ending in 2021. The next runner up filled a vacancy and retains the original term ending date of 2019.

144 members received the ballot.

55 members voted.

The number of votes cast is noted to the left of the candidate.

48 Jacob Morris-Siegel

41 Devon Hedges

40 Ramon Armen

36 Alan Traino

28 Francois Errandonea

There were no write-in votes.

The NCC Trustees are:

Christine Young	2016	2019
Paul Rubin	2016	2019
Alan Traino	2009	2019
Mike Chu	2005	2020
Morgan Ingalls	2011	2020
Wayne Russell	2017	2020
Jacob Morris-Siegel	2015	2021
Devon Hedges	2017	2021
Ramon Armen	2018	2021

Norm Berg  
NCC Nominating Committee Chair



## **Risk Management (Mitch Berger)**

### Progress

Inquired about a Certificate of Additionally Insured for our anniversary celebration; this will be easy pending receipt of the information I need to fill out the form we've been provided.

Our G/L policy auto-renewed, with a cost increase of approximately \$15

The Board's annual Conflict of Interest disclosure forms are due at this meeting, and have been distributed

### Issues

We were expecting an invoice for our G/L and D&O policies and haven't received them yet

### Plans

Look into the invoices we're expecting

Acquire our CoAI for the anniversary

Assemble the rest of the Committee membership

Pick up other issues that were in-progress with the former ad-hoc committee

## **Torys Ad hoc committee (Bob Simmons)**

March meeting postponed due to illness, have yet to reschedule.

## **40th Anniversary Ad hoc committee**

Committee looking for volunteers to help coordinate set up and run the event.

Venue and date are locked in; invitations to Founders letters have gone out.

Workman's Comp and disability insurance issues addressed, waiver from New York approved.

### To Do List:

1. Complete budget,
2. Finalize plans for menu and set prices.
3. Have Communications publicize a "hold the date" on Facebook, newsletter and via mail chimp.
4. Order gifts for Founders.
5. Invite special guests
6. Program for evening

## **Bat Hibernation Ad hoc committee (Emily Davis, Mike Warner, Morgan Ingalls)**

No update received

## **Governance ad hoc (Devon Hedges)**

Committee hasn't convened. Work to continue over summer

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

### **Bylaws Committee (Joe Levinson)**

No report received.

### **Education (Thom Engel)**

Libraries across the country have as a summer theme this year of "Libraries Rock." I am giving talks at both the Gloversville (7/11) and Bethlehem (7/10) Public Libraries on caves.

### **Science Committee (Larry Davis)**

No report received. (Larry has retired from University of New Haven and has moved back to New Hampshire.)

### **Special Use (Thom Engel)**

As of 05/28/2018, I dealt with 23 requests so far. Of these, 21 or 91% are for Clarksville Cave.

Overall, I have 127 reserved slots so far. 116 or 91% are for Clarksville.

Paul Rubin also reports that on May 5 he encountered a boy scout troop in Clarksville Cave. He asked them if they had a permit. They told him they did. They lied. No special use permit was issued for a BSA group for 5/5. Groups are required to have their permit on the dash of one of their vehicles. Failure to have the permit with them is just like having no permit at all.

Emily Davis and I have been dealing with the new BSA rules. These were developed in collaboration between the NSS and the BSA. They largely seem geared to placate BSA insurance. They require leaders with "cave rescue experience." (Practically this means that some scout leaders who have led trips for several years are no longer "qualified" to lead these trips.) There are also much stricter equipment requirements such as 3 headlights, two of which must be on the helmet.

I had our first request for a special use group to visit Merlins. Some e-mail back and forth revealed these were beginners. I told them that Clarksville was a better option and they agreed.

### **Surprise Cave Committee (Al DeMaria)**

I made a visit to the Surprise surface area. We have had some substantial rains and I wanted to see if some of the sinkholes to the south of Surprise (in the direction of Rhodes cave) were changing to some degree and looking like fruitful digging. Unfortunately, none of the sinkholes in that area (and there are quite a few as you head south) looked significantly different from the past. Some old dig projects did not look as if any digging has been done for a long time. There is still an old ladder (in good shape) in one of the deeper sinkholes but very little progress has been made there.

Carl Herzog (Albany DEC) had a thought that the big decrease in the bat count over the years (even beyond any WNS effect) might have been influenced when the old second entrance was closed by Janeczko (property owners north of the stream). Carl thought that change in air flow when two entrances became one might have affected the cave temperature and hibernation. So my object was to see if any of the sinkholes on state land looked good for a dig to open another entrance. The most promising possibility was a sink to the southwest of the entrance, about 10 minutes away, that showed some signs of previous digging; as far as I could tell, it looked like it might be above the far end of the New Discovery section of the cave. I have not been back there for years (obviously, since the cave has been closed) and I do not recall whether there any signs of roots/dirt which would indicate nearness to the surface.

I then went across the stream. There are a number of sinkholes in that area, also, on the property of either Janeczko or the Oak Ridge Rod and Gun Club. Years ago, I made a few exploratory digs in a couple of sinkholes with small streams sinking into them. I think they were in the vicinity of the Lakeroom Maze and the far end of the Lasso Passages. Bob Simmons has said that he once brought up the topic of possible sale/easement of some of that property north of the stream but nothing came of it. I should make a closer check of the property lines there and see if some of those sinkholes might be on the Rod and Gun Club land and, possibly, be a future target for our purposes. I have not asked Bob S. if he ever looked closely at that northern property in relation to where Surprise cave was located to the surface areas.

### **Thacher Park (Thom Engel)**

The first NCC work day of the year was May 19. It was lousy weather and no one attended. (I would not have even bothered had I known no one would show up.)

The following Saturdays in 2018 will be formal work days in Thacher Park: June 23, July 14, August 25, and September 15. As with last year, work trips to Hailes will be allowed on other days. I will need sufficient lead time to give the Park the required 72-hour heads-up.

## **Attachment C** **Treasurer Report**





**Northeastern Cave Conservancy Inc  
 Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual  
 January 1 through May 30, 2018**

05/30/2018

	<u>Jan 1 - May 30, 18</u>	<u>Budget</u>
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>		
<b>Income</b>		
<b>Donations</b>		
Auction Donations	0.00	2,400.00
Donations - Other	7,258.09	7,170.00
<b>Total Donations</b>	<u>7,258.09</u>	<u>9,570.00</u>
Grants	26,000.00	6,000.00
Interest Earned	7.39	10.00
Membership Income	1,530.00	3,500.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<u>34,795.48</u>	<u>19,080.00</u>
<b>Expense</b>		
40th Anniversary	0.00	2,000.00
Acquisitions	4,000.00	2,000.00
Bank Charges	53.81	50.00
Donations-outgoing	0.00	200.00
Dues	0.00	350.00
Education	0.00	50.00
<b>Executive</b>		
President	0.00	100.00
Secretary	0.00	50.00
Treasurer	0.00	50.00
VP	0.00	50.00
<b>Total Executive</b>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>250.00</u>
Insurance	812.00	2,000.00
Legal Fees	0.00	1,000.00
Licenses & Permits	0.00	50.00
Meeting Expense	0.00	100.00
Meetings & Conferences	0.00	170.00
Membership Expenses	0.00	100.00
Miscellaneous	0.00	100.00
Office Expense	54.00	100.00
Postage	0.00	100.00
Preserves-Maintenance		

Bensons	0.00	1,000.00
Bentleys	0.00	1,100.00
Clarksville	0.00	1,350.00
Ella Armstrong	0.00	500.00
Knox	0.00	1,100.00
Merlins	0.00	600.00
Onesquethaw	0.00	600.00
Sellecks	0.00	700.00
Spider	0.00	600.00
<b>Total Preserves-Maintenance</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>7,550.00</b>
Printing	0.00	1,000.00
Promotion	0.00	1,300.00
Publishing		
Mailings	0.00	50.00
Website	0.00	60.00
<b>Total Publishing</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>110.00</b>
Sponsorships	0.00	300.00
Taxes on Properties	11.24	200.00
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>4,931.05</b>	<b>19,080.00</b>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>29,864.43</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Other Income/Expense</b>		
<b>Other Income</b>		
In Kind donations	0.00	0.00
Net Gain or Loss from NSF Fund	-783.68	0.00
Volunteer Value	17,495.00	0.00
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>16,711.32</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Other Expense</b>		
In Kind Out	0.00	0.00
Volunteer Value Exp	17,495.00	0.00
<b>Total Other Expense</b>	<b>17,495.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Net Other Income</b>	<b>-783.68</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>29,080.75</b>	<b>0.00</b>

**Barn Dance Subcommittee - Emily Davis & Mike Warner:**

**Problems**-none

**Plans**-Set a date in the near future (Hopefully Mr. Folsom will make the contacts and do this as he has in the past). *From Bill: Current tentative date 9/22 good for the owners of the Barn, waiting on the band until early summer (who is awaiting RPI's Fall Dance date decision).*

**Progress**-Starting to think about 10th barn dance.

**Investment Committee - John Fioroni:**

Status Quo

**Membership Committee - Peter Youngbaer:**

**Progress:**

**Membership Renewals and New Members:**

All renewal notices for memberships up through June 25 have been sent, a second and third notices, as appropriate. The database is current as of today, May 30.

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

May 30, 2018		April 22, 2012 (baseline)	
Life:	63	Life:	18
Family Life:	9	Family Life:	0
Benefactor:	11	Benefactor:	10
Regular:	71	Regular:	88
Family:	21	Family:	16
Institutional:	8	Institutional:	3
Total:	183	Total:	135

[The total increased to 191 after NRO]

**Institutional Members:** We improved from six up to eight: Boston Grotto, Central Connecticut Grotto, Met Grotto, Northern New Jersey Grotto, Vermont Cavers Association, Helderberg-Hudson Grotto, New Jersey Initial Response Team, and Camp Echo Lake. If your grotto or organization isn't listed here, please urge them to renew or join. Thank you.

**Problems:**

**Membership:** Our Regular membership continues to be the most problematic. While we have picked up a few new members, active cavers are lapsing or not renewing. NCC Board efforts have helped some, but a problem has been the scheduling of NROs. We dropped a lot of members when the NRO was a joint venture a couple of years ago, mostly those who had normally renewed at the May NRO. This year's late NRO is again a problem, as our Regular membership has dropped by 10 since the March report. Not uncoincidentally, that's the exact number of March- May renewals that haven't come in yet. Hopefully, we'll pick up many of those this weekend.

**NCC Swag:** I give up.

**Plans:**

**Normal Operations:** Will continue to send renewal notices, as well as second and third notices, as applicable. I will push to get all July and early August notices out prior to the NSS Convention, as I will be away 2 ½ weeks at that time.

**NCC 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary:** Please forward info on the 40th Anniversary dinner and any other related activities, so I can include it in the dues notices as additional enticement. The date is October 20th at SUNY Cobleskill.

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

**Problems:** None

**Plans:** status quo

**Progress:** status quo

### **Publications – Christa Hay:**

**Progress:** Newsletter sent out before Board meeting. Ordered a banner for the 40<sup>th</sup> and had it delivered to Bob Simmons. Ordered 100 tshirts with the 40<sup>th</sup> logo for first showing at NRO. Craig Cantello picked them up and delivered them to NRO.

**Plans:** Any other swag needed for the 40<sup>th</sup>...there is still time to order.

**Problems:** Usual need for timely articles and information for the newsletter.

### **Technology Committee Report – Mike Chu:**

Primary website duties handed to Ramon Armen in April (Mike will be backup webmaster). Mike Chu managed the NCC election since Ramon was running as a candidate; everything went smoothly with no issues to report.

### **Volunteer Value Committee – Vince Kappler:**

**Progress:** Year to date totals: 531 hours of volunteer work for NCC projects for a total value of \$17,495.00. Members also reported traveling a total of 4366 miles to work on NCC projects.

The Clarksville Work Day and two committees (Treasurer and Office) accounted for the 312 hours of VV time reported this quarter. Although I send out reminders to all committees and board members, the officers should reinforce the importance of reporting the time members spend working for the benefit of the NCC.

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

**Problems:** None at this time.

## **Attachment D Secretary's Report**

An unexpected pile of obligations have been conspiring for the past few months to consume every waking moment of my life, and this has eaten into my ability to be responsive and complete various tasks in the amount of time that I think is appropriate. You have my apologies. There is some reason to hope that the pile of commitments eating away at me will diminish from extremely excessive to a more normal level in the next few weeks.

## **EC Meeting Minutes May 6, 2018, 10:00am Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy Offices**

### **Website**

Thom was looking at it again. Bill says Ramon has agreed to take over as webmaster. It still has inconsistent info. Mitch and Luke have gotten access and Thom's done some inventorying of inaccurate info, but time is needed to apply changes. Perhaps a single table on the front page with the dates/rules for each cave would be good. Management plans get reviewed every 3 years; perhaps we should review website info for each preserve at the same time.

**New Scout Caving Rules**

Thom says this is mostly a heads-up. The new rules have specific standards about who can lead a scout caving trip. One is that they have to have some cave rescue training. An example of an issue is that a fellow we've worked with in CT who's led many groups before technically no longer qualifies due to these rules. Thom is trying to hook them up with someone from CCG to proxy, but we're discussing with Greg and Emily running an OCR for scout leaders to try to help them qualify.

**Acquisitions Updates**

a. Clarksville Addition: Survey is done as of two weekends ago (the week before the work day). Just need to get Steve Crookes's approval of it, and then we can file (we might have to own it first). Selecting a closing date is one of the next steps. If we want Crookes's help with his excavator machinery, we need to plan this before taking ownership, because the equipment will be leaving shortly after we own it, at which point the free offer won't be available anymore. There are some questions to consider about whether to have equipment do more than clean the streambed.

b. Salamander: Survey is underway - we sent a check for the first half, which has been cashed. This is prime field season for surveyors.

[REDACTED]

Bill will be available, Thom will probably come for the day Saturday. Bob will need some help breaking down the tent Sunday morning. The tent and swag are at Bob's house. If Peter comes, he'll be able to pick up his swag.

### **NRO Auctions / Gage**

At our meeting at Thacher, Emily requested that rather than the NCC running its auctions this year, she'd like to run the auctions in favor of funding the Gage Cabin project. There are questions about whether giving up the auction now might open the door to the auction being handed around season to season, because we don't actually have a right to it, but traditionally it's ours. Thom is willing to match auction funds 1:1 so the NCC gets the auction money and an equal amount will go to the Gage Cabin, and the NCC is willing to hold the funds since the NSS is unwilling to have a dedicated fund for this purpose. Who will be the auctioneer? Maybe Alan?

### **Mailchimp Access**

The current process was tested with the President's Update. Christa had a couple of constructive comments, and it went out the same day Bob sent a file in the correct format. We should, however, fold it into generic business continuity plans so that there's a backup plan in case something should make Christa unavailable. We enumerated a bunch of things that we should incorporate into a business continuity plan (bank accounts, Facebook, LinkedIn, the website server, Mailchimp, finances, the membership database, ...).

### **NYSCPP Grants**

We were awarded \$26k of ~\$26.8k requested, and the paperwork is essentially done to accept it. We'll be going back to Wildlife Acoustics now that we have this, and hopefully that'll bring in another \$5k. The Dogwood City Grotto (of TAG Fall Cave-In fame) encouraged us, but turned us down. There are other avenues, including the NSS and NSF.

### **NSS Grant, NSF Grant**

We could approach one of these if we don't get the Wildlife Acoustics grant. We might want to instead try using them for the Clarksville acquisition. We think they may meet at Convention, so we want to watch timelines for when paperwork would have to be in to apply.

### **40th Anniversary Planning**

Banner

T-shirts: Semi-designed, apparently the number of colors is one beyond a large price jump. We're looking at dropping a color.

Beer/Mugs: Bob's been talking with someone at the Helderberg Mountain Brewery. Apparently last year they had a Knox Cave Pale Ale, which sold well. They're willing to do another run of it and make mugs with our logo and their Knox Cave Ale logo on it. They do kegs. Bob would like to have some of this available at summer caving events - free, but perhaps people will buy mugs.

Venue contract: Signed.

Venue insurance: We have the form we need; this should be easy.

Venue Workmen's Comp: We're absolved of this requirement.

Invites: We need to get them out to key people.

Event Favors: Danny Brass will make the wood cut items. Bob's thinking about fleece vests with "Founder" and the logo on them.

A/V for Art Palmer's presentation: Bob has access to real equipment, but we need to find out what Art's going to want.

Fundraising: Bob thinks that works better after the first event if this becomes a regular event. We should put brochures out at each place setting, though. Swag should be available, including the commemorative 40th t-shirt, though that will also be available at the NROs.

### **Thacher Leadership Change**

Thom doesn't expect that this will have a material effect on our relationship.

### **Public Libraries**

Each year, all the public libraries come up with a theme. This year, it's "Libraries Rock." We haven't been contacted yet, but we might be.

### **Clarksville Day**



It's Saturday, August 4, from 9am-3pm. They'd like us to give a virtual tour of the cave and perhaps show off some rope stuff. It's not going to be at the cave - it will be at the community church (there'll be electricity, and there are trees). Mitch wonders if Greg Moore might be interested in setting rope stuff up in trees to show off if the audience is not likely to include cavers who may come take NCRC. Peter Haberland will almost certainly not be going to Convention; Bill thinks he might jump at giving vertical demos.

Adjourned at 2:34pm