

NORTHEASTERN CAVE CONSERVANCY, INC

Minutes

June 2, 2019 10:00 AM

Melrose, NY

Meeting called to order at 10:11am

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, E. Nieman, R. Armen
3. Absent with proxy: None
4. Absent without designated proxy: P. Rubin, M. Ingalls, W. Russell
The board may appoint proxies from the members in attendance.
[The order of business was altered to postpone a decision about proxies until after item 10]
[No proxies were appointed]
5. Nominating Committee Report on Trustee Elections (N. Berg)
See Nominating Committee Report in Attachment A
6. Simmons moves to thank Paul Rubin for his service to the NCC.
Second by Berger
For: All
[The NCC thanks Paul Rubin for his service to the NCC]
7. New Trustees are seated
Welcome to Kevin Dumont and Leslie Hatfield.
8. Officers' Reports
President: Attachment A
Vice President: Attachment B
Treasurer: Attachment C
Secretary: Attachment D
9. Simmons moves to open the Committee of the Whole. The Vice president will preside. Items may be entered as new business.
Second by Morris-Siegel
For: All
[The Committee of the Whole is opened]

Topics:
 1. National Cave and Karst Management Symposium 2019 (Berger)
Abstracts for our presentations need to be written. Simmons, Berger, and Ingalls will all be listed as authors on the NYSCPP talk so that Simmons or Berger are able to give the talk in case an emergency causes Simmons to have to cancel plans to attend. Berger, Simmons, and Engel will attend (Warner will, too, as a vendor, for the first two days). Berger plans to give a talk on risk management. Engel plans to give a talk about the Clarksville usage study.
 2. Fall NRO (Simmons) and update from Spring NRO (Folsom, Davis, Engel, Berger)
Fall NRO will be at Hideaway, hosted by CCG for their 60th anniversary. The Spring NRO that just passed was a good group effort. We made about \$1400, though somehow the cashbox was \$45 short and couldn't be reconciled for the first time in many years. Morris-Siegel relayed compliments on how well the auction was run, Folsom thanked Berger for making the post-auction transactions go smoothly, Engel thanked Bob Addis for donating items to sell, Davis thanked Nieman and Brian Taylor for expertly setting up the NCC tent, and Folsom thanked Porter for bringing the many books Howcroft donated for sale (these brought in roughly \$348).
 3. Members Day (Simmons)
The date and venue are set and were sent out in the newsletter and on Facebook; an e-mail needs to be sent out next. We need to deal with the issue of RSVPs versus Facebook "going"s - Engel needs actual RSVPs for us to

cover parking fees. Those arriving prior to 11am for the Work Day at Thatcher won't be charged admission by the park; after that, those who arrive and have RSVP'd will have their parking covered by the NCC, and those who arrive without having RSVP'd will have to pay the parking fee (\$6). The Office volunteers for buying food, but needs someone to bring a clean vegetarian grill.

4. Database / E-mail List (Simmons)

There are reports of people receiving mailings either late or not at all. Part of the challenge with getting multiple people access comes from the MailChimp account currently in use being a personal account rather than an organizational one; this will be transitioned, and it will then hopefully become easier for others to help debug things like this.

5. Waivers, separation of NCC and NSS (Simmons)

This is a pet peeve of Simmons's - we can't seem to get people off the waiver kick even though the NCC no longer takes them, because the NSS does and their info is on our page. He wants us to untangle ourselves from the NSS and send people wanting permission to visit NSS caves to the NSS website. Berger notes that people are viewing the NCC as the primary place to come for information about caves in the northeast, which is overall a good thing, and that he's heard at least in the past that getting updates made to NSS preserve pages has been very difficult. He also points out that unless we actually stop specialuse@necaveconservancy.org from getting you access to the NSS caves and running that process through our Special Use Committee, we haven't actually unentangled the two groups, and in that case, it's just annoying to make cavers jump through hoops and visit multiple different pages to ultimately talk with the NCC Special Use Coordinator for access to both caves. The old joint NCC/NSS waiver is still being used for the NSS caves, because the only waiver document the NSS has thus far offered for use wasn't viewed as acceptable. Davis wants someone to talk with the NSS Preserves Chair at Convention about getting us a usable waiver for that. Berger will try to do so.

6. Events section on the website, Facebook (Simmons)

Folsom manages our Facebook presence, and that site has some attendance-tracking functionality. Armen is managing our website, but isn't getting many requests to post events. We need to tighten up the process for getting news of our events to both places (and perhaps the newsletter and e-mail list). Folsom suggests this might be a Secretarial task. Berger agrees that that might be reasonable, except that it seems to clearly be about publicity, for which we have a designated committee; more generally, he's confused about how it ended up being the case that Folsom seems to get requests to post events, and nobody else does. Chu will set up an events@necaveconservancy.org alias going to all the relevant parties, and anyone receiving requests to post events unicast will begin forwarding them there and letting folks know to use that address going forward to reach all the right places.

7. Updates from State Land Trust meeting attendees (Morris-Siegel, Simmons, Engel)

Morris-Siegel went to the Massachusetts one, where most of the talks weren't really applicable to us, He did see some impressive software for Conservation Restriction monitoring, though it's pricy at \$500/year. Berger asked how similar this is to the software used by HRP that Simmons has mentioned we might be able to use; evidently there's some overlap, but the offering seen at the conference is much more purpose-built for the sorts of things we may be interested in, especially if we end up holding conservation easements.

Engel and Simmons attended the New York (Land Trust Alliance) one. Engel attended two talks - one on the effects of global warming (including ticks), and one on kiosks - evidently Scenic Hudson has the state of the art design, which is quite expensive and features a monopole in a concrete pad (we also learned that one of the pictures on their kiosks features a sailboat off in the distance with Peter Haberland in it). Simmons attended a talk on how to grow Boards and volunteers, and another on fundraising. Some of the talks didn't really seem worth the time; the networking was more valuable, though Simmons didn't see all the people there that he was hoping to. Our representatives had breakfast with some of the Orange County Land Trust folks, and lunch with a lawyer for the Columbia Land Conservancy, and there were topics of mutual interest to discuss with each of those groups. It was noted that us cave conservancies are odd - other conservancies are trying hard to draw people to their land. NCKMS will be a nice change, because of how many like-minded organizations will be there.

8. Publicity policy and information found on-line about our caves (Engel)

Berger noted that he placed this item here because of discussion at the EC meeting suggesting that we might want to modify the Publicity Policy to tackle the issue of addressing public information we find online about our caves (correct or otherwise), but that when he went to print a copy of that policy for the Board to refer to during this discussion, he re-discovered that we don't actually have one fixed policy - it's per-preserve, and in some cases varies (for example, because Clarksville is so well-known and not hidden, and because of our partnership with CLC at Merlins). Engel says that in some ways, this makes things easier, because then there's nothing to do in terms of modifying the non-existent policy. We should pay attention to various media (Facebook pages, OpenStreetView,

etc.). Hatfield asks if we should try to take over whatever listings we can. Berger and Hedges note that while that may be a good idea, the number of sites where this kind of information and pages pop up is ever growing, and this task is kind of intractable and we can only ever play whack-a-mole with it.

9. Assistance assessing bedrock safety concerns at the Spider entrance (Dumont)

See the Spider Cave Preserve report - Dumont was seeking folks qualified to help assess the stability. Hatfield mentioned “scalers,” and Nieman has some experience with that. We discussed a case where Thacher Park was found to have liability from rockfall, and Folsom asked about our liability, both if we do nothing, and if we try to make it safer but somehow make it worse. Our understanding is that we’re well-protected by the sportsman’s law in NY, and that our insurance backs us up. Nieman and Hedges will help assess the items Dumont has noticed.

10. OTR presence (Berger)

We will need to decide well before the next meeting whether we want to have a presence there. We don’t really sell much of anything at the tent, despite putting out most of our merchandise (and Speleobooks does a fine job collecting dues renewals for us even when the NCC tent is closed). However, Berger found the presence valuable last year for a different reason - the good conversations we managed to have with a number of people (which he wrote up in detail for the EC after last year’s event), one of which, for example, got us one of our new preserve managers. He’s not willing to do it solo again, though, and if the project he’s working on to get CaveSim to OTR pans out, he will have time commitments that essentially prevent him from putting in much of any time at our booth. We don’t need a final decision right now, but need it at least 5 weeks out from the event. We need to see if any of our members who are regular OTR attendees are willing to help staff the booth for a few hours. Davis and Berger will produce a list of likely suspects, and then Berger and Simmons will work on getting commitments from them.

11. Agenda and report timelines (Berger)

Berger explained that he disliked the days when committee reports were due nearly a month prior to the Board meeting, because it didn’t feel worthwhile to spend the time attending a meeting where month-old information most people already knew was discussed, and that he’s let the deadlines drift much closer to the meeting, because he felt the information contained in the agenda was then much more useful to the Board. However, the last couple of meetings, things were coming in so late that the Board was only able to get the agenda a day or two before the meeting, and it was then nearly useless because most people hadn’t had enough time to read through all of it. He also gave an explanation of the actual steps and passes that go into producing an agenda that avoids dropping items on the floor from reports, from previous meetings, from things we do annually, etc., keeping it consistent with the Board Manual, correcting errors, etc., and the numerous documents that have to be cross-checked to end up with the agenda that we use to try to let the meeting run smoothly. In short, though it generally looks like the four officers’ sections are simply cut-and-pasted together and that’s an agenda, what really happens is much more complicated, and it’s by far the single hardest thing the Secretary does.

He then asked what the Board’s wished to do about the timelines to balance between a desire to have as up-to-date information as possible and a need to have the agenda out to the Board in time for them to all read through it and contribute additions (he noted that even though it often looks like a variety of people were contributing CotW items and motions, most such things recently were being placed there by him during the described passes over reports and other documents, and assigned to logical people; he thinks it’s more valuable when Board members read the first draft and notice and submit things it reminds them that they wish to bring up at the meeting). Conclusions were that committee reports will be due to officers two weeks out from the meeting, and officers compilations will be due to the Secretary 1 week out from the meeting; that a new highlighting color will be used to call attention to items that are new or changed after the first draft of the agenda; and that we may institute a 15-20 minute reading period at the start of meetings to allow Board members to read through what they haven’t had time to before the meeting.

12. Instability of rocks in Clarksville (Nieman)

The rocks identified are part of the filled-in North Entrance (over the Lake Room), which we don’t own. The short conclusion is that we can’t really touch them as they’re not ours, and additionally, were we to start disturbing things up there, it’s likely the situation would become worse.

13. Barn Dance (Davis)

The Octagon Barn is reserved for the Barn Dance on September 28, and also the following morning for the Board Meeting.

14. Northeast Bat Working Group (Davis)

Warner and Davis are running the next event January 14-16, 2020 at the Gideon Putnam Hotel in Saratoga. The following one will be January 5-7, 2021 at the Doubletree in Manchester, NH. We’ve budgeted sponsorship at

the \$500 level for the 2020 event this year, and should remember to budget a sponsorship level for 2021 when we approve our next budget in December. The Office will bring the rollup; we should let them know what else to bring.

10. Simmons moves to close the Committee of the Whole.
Second by Hedges
For: All
[The Committee of the Whole is closed]

[The Board took a break for lunch at 1:10pm, and the meeting resumed at 1:38pm]

[Agenda item 4 was addressed at this time]

Old Business

[None]

New Business

11. Berger moves: The minutes of the March 3, 2019 Board Meeting are approved.
Second by Hedges
For: Rest
Abstain: Dumont
[The minutes of the March 3, 2019 Board Meeting are approved]

12. Engel moves: The NCC Certificate of Merit is created. The NCC Board may award up to three such certificates a year. Nominations may be made by any NCC member in good standing to the NCC Executive Committee, who shall serve as the awards committee. Eligible individuals must be NCC members. No person shall receive the certificate more than once.
[Advance discussion of this motion can be found in Item (1) of the Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting of April 28, 2019, as found in Attachment D.]
Second by Hedges

Davis inquired whether the intent was to create an award more like the NSS's Fellow award or their Certificate of Merit, or one of the others (Hatfield read the NSS descriptions of their awards); the intent seems to more closely parallel what the NSS calls a Fellow, though the point was taken that even though (as Simmons notes) we needn't follow everything the NSS does, the nomenclature might be a little confusing. Hedges suggested that we needed written standards for the award, and we concluded that though these standards don't need to be written for the motion creating the award, we will need to articulate this in writing for the membership when we solicit nominations. Dumont asked whether the limit of three certificates a year is necessary, and though Berger explained the rationale behind that limit, Dumont correctly pointed out that the awards committee could apply whatever limit it deemed appropriate without this being spelled out in the motion. Berger noted that the amount of discussion and number of facets of the proposal being questioned comes as somewhat of a surprise, and might normally suggest postponing the motion and coming back with it later after resolving more of these concerns, except that we were hoping to award the first group of recipients at the upcoming Members' Day. Hatfield asked if we'll be handling this at hyperspeed, soliciting nominations from the membership in time for July 6; it became clear that the first round will have to be expedited by the EC, and we'll begin the broader solicitation for nominations for the second round. Morris-Siegel asked if it made more sense for the Board or Trustees to nominate rather than the membership due to being more familiar with the NCC-specific contributions being made over time by various people. Berger noted that this is the reason the EC is proposed as the awards committee rather than appointing a separate awards committee that might not have that insight, and Simmons pointed out that there are various members not on the board (for example, certain committee chairs) who both have a good deal of that insight and also have a longer view of NCC activity than much of the Board. Hatfield suggested that the award committee might be better if it were a pair of Trustees and a pair of Officers. Davis suggested that the award should be named the Robert P. Addis Merit Award. Ultimately, the conclusion seemed to be that adjustments could be made later if necessary, and that the proposal was sufficient (and possibly necessary) to be able to give the first round of awards at the upcoming Members' Day, and no modifications were made to the wording of the motion.

For: All
[The NCC Certificate of Merit is created. The NCC Board may award up to three such certificates a year. Nominations may be made by any NCC member in good standing to the NCC Executive Committee, who shall serve as the awards committee. Eligible individuals must be NCC members. No person shall receive the certificate more than once.]

13. Simmons moves: Folsom, Berger, Morris-Siegel, Armen, and Porter are appointed to represent the NCC at Convention.
Second by Hatfield

Davis notes that the Office will bring the rollup and a desk to have brochures on, and that someone else should print about 30 Planned Giving brochures for the table and 15 to bring to the Conservancies Roundtable meeting. Regarding the kiosk, we don't know whether electricity will be present in the hallway.

For: All

[Folsom, Berger, Morris-Siegel, Armen, and Porter are appointed to represent the NCC at Convention]

14. Dumont moves: The NCC Certificate of Merit is renamed the Robert P. Addis Service Award.

[Motion fails for lack of second]

Informational point: Next EC meeting will be Sunday, August 25, 2019 at 10 AM at a location TBD, but we will inquire about the MHLC offices.

Informational point: the Fall Board meeting will be Sunday, September 29, 2019 at 10 AM at a location TBD (pending the Barn Dance schedule; we will likely inquire about either the Octagon Barn or the Onesquethaw Firehouse).

Informational point: the late Fall EC meeting will be Sunday, November 3, 2019 at 10 AM at Simmons's home.

15. Simmons moves: The NCC Winter meeting will be Sunday, December 8, 2019 at 10 AM at Speleobooks.

Second by Chu

For: All

[The NCC Winter meeting will be Sunday, December 8, 2019 at 10 AM at Speleobooks]

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

Second by Dumont

For: Rest

Abstain: Chu

[The NCC thanks Mike Chu and Cristina Estrada for hosting this NCC meeting]

17. Engel moves to adjourn.

Second by Morris-Siegel

For: Rest

Against: Morris-Siegel

[The meeting is adjourned]

Meeting adjourned at 2:48pm

**Attachment A
President's Report**

1. Thanks to all for covering the business of the Conservancy during my recent family business issues. Hoping things will settle down soon and I can give the business of the organization the time and effort it deserves.
2. Still looking for candidates for fund raising chair.
3. A great job done by all at the NRO, thank you everyone.

Cave Preserve Management Plan Review Schedule

Year	June	December	March
2019	Merlins	Onesquethaw	Bensons
2020	Clarksville	Bentleys	Spider
2021	Knox	Sellecks	Ella Armstrong
2022	Merlins	Onesquethaw	Bensons
2023	Clarksville	Bentleys	Spider
2024	Knox	Sellecks	Ella Armstrong

Note: No updates were requested by the Managers of the Merlins Preserve. No management plans are reviewed at the September meeting. The Onesquethaw MP will be up for review at the December meeting.

CAVE PRESERVE REPORTS:

1. Bensons (Luke Mazza)

Progress: Continuing to make regular visits to the property for acoustic bat detector maintenance. The light detectors that were in place for the winter were removed from the Walk-in and Pit entrances by Erik Nieman somewhere around May 11. Trips have started to go out to the cave, with 2 permits issued so far this Spring. Fortunately, with the spring thaw, I haven't seen the usual dropping of trees all over the trail as usually occurs.

Issues: The grass is growing fast and the right-of-way will need to be mowed soon. I put up some trail markers a few months back but I still think a few more are needed to clearly delineate the trail since the footpath is not very well defined.

Plans: I'll be back in a couple of weeks to replace the batteries in the bat detectors and mow the right-of-way.

2. Bentleys (Devon Hedges)

Progress: Fallen trees chopped and cleared during winter. A bid solicited from one vendor for improving the drainage for the driveway. A 'broad based dip' structure for mitigating drainage from the lot is proposed along with adding and leveling stone along the driveway approach in order to re-establish the drainage paths to the sides. Estimate not yet received, intend to pursue further bids. NYSCPP project work proceeded regularly with no noted problems. Will refer neighbor's requests regarding trail use and hunting to Bentley's in Wynantskill.

Issues: Two outing club visits were noted recently from the MIT and Williams Outing Clubs. MIT reported finding a porcupine in Bentley's and a large headless bird in Dry Valley. Seems they got their caves mixed up as Dry Valley often has porcupines in it and Bentley's had a dead turkey vulture who had landed such that its head was tucked underneath; bird removed. Williams group was directed to Special Use given paid trip leadership and followed protocol, though needed to be reminded to use the trail register (I was there getting CPP data when they were on the way out).

Plans: Seasonal trail maintenance will get done shortly; planning to reach out to some grottoes for extra help. Remediating nearby Signage updates and driveway work (pending bids and approval) are realistic goals this season!

3. Clarksville (Thom Engel)

Boundary markers were put up on the new parcel by Chuck Porter. On 4/27 volunteers cleared the trail from the main trail to the Gregory entrance. The trail out to the road was also cleared. The cave reopened on May 1 and the "Restricted Area" signs were taken

down by Thom Engel. Erik Nieman reports finding some garbage inside the Ward entrance. He also reports a large rock that was up on the edge of the Lake Room in the fall is now at the bottom. A Boy Scout group was asked to leave Clarksville after being found there without a permit (they had previously submitted a blank request, and not responded to the Special Use Committee's reply seeking the missing information).

4. Ella Armstrong (Erik Nieman)

Progress:

Visits every two weeks for NYSCPP project. There have been no signs of human visitation to the preserve or cave during the closure period, other than for CPP project. Have cleared fallen wood from above the entrance, and the large tree from in front of the entrance. Cleared trail of overgrowth. Discovered and removed a dead muskrat near the base of the drop on first trip into the cave in early May. Bolts for vertical rigging have been inspected.

Issues:

Property boundaries are not currently marked that I am able to see from walking the preserve.

Plans:

Attempting to acquire property survey and/or locate survey pins in order to mark boundaries. Periodic trail and parking maintenance.

5. Knox (Mitch Berger)

Progress: Trail checkups at the end of the winter and beginning of the open season happened and indicated no problems. Ice was gone from the sinkhole well before May 15, so we opened on-schedule. 7 permits have been issued, plus permission was granted to enter the cave between May 1 and May 15 only as far as necessary to retrieve the light monitor. That early project trip and at least one of the permits resulted in aborted trips due to excessive water flow over the ladder. Conversations are underway regarding plans to use the preserve for multiple NCRC offerings in the coming year.

Issues: Still need to obtain the results of the winter DEC bat count. The Great Divide rope is still there, though there's finally a believable offer to remove it safely. Engel and Berger still need to investigate the poison ivy and possibly parsnip plants now that the foliage is growing again. Four separate permit requests had to be denied because we can't seem to keep May 15 from changing to May 1 nearly everywhere Knox's opening date is published (including our website, and alarmingly the Northeastern Caver, despite that this is the one and only closure date that has remained constant since before the discovery of WNS).

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, and investigation of troublesome plant species.

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

The Merlins Preserve Management Plan was up for review this quarter, Morgan and Jacob report that there are no proposed changes to the plan and it will stand as is. Morris-Siegel is hoping to set up a steward training this summer (the last one was about a year ago). Three permits were issued during NRO, but only one of those trips actually occurred.

7. Onesquethaw (Thom Engel)

The cave reopened on May 1 and the "Restricted Area" signs were taken down. There have been two permitted trips into the cave. One to retrieve the light-sensor data recorder. The other was a college club trip. Someone has mowed the field, and it's suspected that it wasn't a farmer, since they left piles of dead grass.

8. Sellecks (Joey O'Reilly) No Report

9. Spider (Kevin Dumont)

Progress: The property was visited on April 22, 2019 and all was found to be in order (trail, kiosk, property markers).

Problems: Canine carcass (most likely a dog) was observed decomposing in the ditch on the north side of the road near the end of the guardrail that's near the designated parking area (4/22).

I have some concerns about the stability and safety of the bedrock near but mostly above the cave entrance (see below for plans).

Plans: Creation of a trail along both the base and the top of the escarpment is planned for summer of 2019.

Cleanup of trash along 146 between the parking area and the base of the trail.

I would like to enlist the assistance of whoever is best qualified to assess the potential safety concerns with the bedrock near and about the cave entrance (see above under problems). In the event that concern is deemed to be warranted, I will devise a plan to address the issue.

OTHER COMMITTEES (PRESIDENT):

Acquisitions (Chuck Porter)

The present negotiations on the Alan Traino Preserve continue to be on hold as the Owner addresses issues with his attorney.

From Devon H:

Traino Preserve

Progress: Current owners selling/moving plans are still in progress including working at getting some lot shape adjustment issues sorted out so that the sale to us can be done properly in as few steps as possible. Volunteers worked at connecting the surface survey of entrances for [redacted] and [redacted] accurately. [redacted] also surveyed substantially though not completely. Debris cleared from [redacted] entrance.

Issues: Spring melt drainage observed to bring entry crawl to something like a 6-8" airspace. Not so friendly for survey work or visits early in the year, potential flood hazards to be investigated.

Plans: Another full-day survey trip is likely necessary for interior mapping of [redacted] and [redacted]. Depending on that work and overlays with the surface survey, additional areas of interest may be identified. Coordination with Acquisitions to figure out what needs doing and where help is needed. Further plans include development of management plan and parking area. Changing area may be well advised given proximity to residential areas.

From Bob S:

Salamander Preserve

Still waiting for updated, expanded survey. Thom visited area to assess possibility of parking and access trail from the northern property. Parking looks good, hillside very, very steep and will require crossing under or over rail road property.

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Nominating (Norm Berg)

Nominating Committee Report for the June 2, 2019 NCC meeting:
There were four candidates running for three openings.

- 153 members received the ballot.
- 41 members voted.
- The number of votes cast is noted to the left of the candidate.
- 34 Kevin Dumont
- 31 Erik Nieman
- 30 Leslie Hatfield
- 24 Paul Rubin

There was one write-in vote: John Dunham
The NCC Trustees, effective at the June meeting, are:

Trustee	Start	End	Notes
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	
Erik Nieman	2018	2022	started Dec 2018, filling rest of C.Young term
Kevin Dumont	2019	2022	
Leslie Hatfield	2019	2022	

A thank you goes to Mike Chu, who set up and ran the online voting system.

Norm Berg
NCC Nominating Committee Chair
nominating@necaveconservancy.org

Risk Management (Mitch Berger)

Progress:

We received and I reviewed the voluminous paperwork associated with our June 19 G/L and D&O insurance renewals.

Our rates for those policies combined have gone up approximately 1%. We budgeted for 3%. Go us!

Learned of and signed up for a new resource (Chubbworks) available to us because of our D&O underwriter (see item (8) in the EC Meeting Minutes in Attachment D).

Spoke with the Alliant VP in charge of the Conserve-A-Nation program; she will help provide info for the NCKMS talk I'm working on.

Issues:

None!

Plans:

Add insurance coverage (G/L and Terrafirma) for Salamander and our other pending acquisition if/when we close.

Keep an eye out to make sure we get our bills for the June insurance renewals (billing is running late; our agent knows).

Turn in an abstract for and work on preparing a deck for the NCKMS risk management talk.

Assemble the rest of the committee membership.

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

Tory's Cave ad hoc committee (Bob Simmons)

Nothing new since last meeting

Bat Hibernation Ad hoc committee (Mitch Berger, Emily Davis, Mike Warner, Morgan Ingalls)

May of this year saw the end of both the acoustic and light monitoring portions of this project. Light monitors came out after the caves opened up and were mostly successful, with a few exceptions where the monitors were probably affected by the humidity. We're still waiting to pull data off of some of the light monitors, but the early data shows that (assuming the detectors were working correctly) there were no visits to many of our caves during the hibernation season. We'll know more after we get data off the detectors from Knox and some of the Clarksville entrances where we know people were in and out during the winter. Acoustic detectors are starting to come down (some are likely at this meeting), and I'm hoping to really dig into acoustic data analysis soon.

The next steps of this project will include the following:

- Continued analysis of the light data
- Continued management and analysis of the acoustic data
- Putting the temperature and humidity loggers into caves (with input on placement from NYDEC)
- Writing a summary of the project so far and putting together a talk for NCKMS
- Deciding if we want to continue any of this work next winter based on results from this winter

I also wrote a short article for the most recent NCC Newsletter! Thanks to Danny Brass for editing help.

Finally, thanks so much to all of our really committed volunteers who helped swap batteries and SD cards on the acoustic detectors this winter! This project most certainly would not have happened without them.

Respectfully submitted by
Morgan Ingalls

Governance ad hoc (Devon Hedges)

Committee has not met or made progress at this time.

**Attachment B
Vice President's Report**

Bylaws Committee (Joe Levinson)
Nothing to report.

Education (Thom Engel)

I have been contacted by Eric Marczak of the Knox Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA). He is looking for someone to present information on karst in general and Knox karst specifically. He then contacted me on 5/23 to request that I come that evening to address some issue before the ZBA for a "re-hearing." I requested more info on the issue at hand and didn't hear back from him. (Professionally, I was ambushed a few times in just this manner. I also don't want the NCC to inadvertently get involved in some local political issue.) I will continue to offer information, but will insist on a more general setting.

Science Committee (Larry Davis)

There is one on-going research project from Paul Rubin. Otherwise, nothing to report.

Special Use (Thom Engel)

I have 76 reservations total of which 65 (85.5%) are for Clarksville. The expected glut of camp reservation has not yet come in. Of this, 21 permits have been issued and 3 withdrawn. All others are pending. As always, these numbers are moving targets.

Surprise Cave Committee (Al DeMaria)

No report received. Simmons notes that DeMaria was organizing a surface trip, and due to some concerns about whether he was completely familiar with the process, Simmons sent out a reminder about the details (a permit needs to be displayed in the windshield, only NCC members may go on the property, there has to be a filled out volunteer form on file for each of those people, etc.).

Thacher Park (Thom Engel)

The Thacher Permit has been renewed. Scheduled work days will be July 6, August 3 & 31, and September 28. As in past years, those wanting to do work in the park are welcome to do so at any time as long as I am informed 96 hours before hand. (I am required to give the park 72 hours lead-time.) The last I checked it Hailes is not yet dry.

**Attachment C
Treasurer's Report**





Northeastern Cave Conservancy Inc
 Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual
 January 1 through May 29, 2019

05/29/2019

	<u>Jan 1 - May 29, 19</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
Donations		
Auction Donations	956.00	2,000.00
Donations - Other	9,211.30	9,670.00
Total Donations	<u>10,167.30</u>	<u>11,670.00</u>
Grants	0.00	1,500.00
Interest Earned	1.16	15.00
Membership Income	1,025.00	2,930.00
Total Income	<u>11,193.46</u>	<u>16,115.00</u>
Expense		
Acquisitions	1,992.00	2,000.00
Bank Charges	22.10	75.00
Donations-outgoing	0.00	200.00
Dues	0.00	350.00
Education	0.00	50.00
Executive		
President	0.00	100.00
Secretary	0.00	50.00
Treasurer	0.00	50.00
VP	0.00	50.00
Total Executive	<u>0.00</u>	<u>250.00</u>
Grant Expense	266.16	1,500.00
Insurance	754.00	2,280.00
Legal Fees	0.00	1,000.00
Licenses & Permits	0.00	500.00
Meeting Expense	0.00	100.00
Meetings & Conferences	0.00	200.00
Membership Expenses	0.00	100.00
Miscellaneous	0.00	100.00
Office Expense	56.00	100.00
Postage	0.00	100.00
Preserves-Maintenance		
Bensons	0.00	250.00
Bentleys	0.00	100.00
Clarksville	0.00	100.00
Ella Armstrong	0.00	100.00
Knox	0.00	100.00
Merlins	0.00	100.00

Onesquethaw	0.00	50.00
Sellecks	0.00	100.00
Spider	0.00	100.00
Total Preserves-Maintenance	0.00	1,000.00
Promotion	0.00	2,000.00
Publishing		
Mailings	0.00	50.00
Website	0.00	60.00
Total Publishing	0.00	110.00
Science	0.00	3,000.00
Sponsorships	0.00	800.00
Taxes on Properties	398.57	300.00
Total Expense	3,488.83	16,115.00
Net Ordinary Income	7,704.63	0.00
Other Income/Expense		
Other Income		
Net Gain or Loss from NSF Fund	4,176.42	0.00
Net Gain or Loss Vanguard Life	98.29	0.00
Volunteer Value	0.00	
Total Other Income	4,274.71	0.00
Other Expense		
In Kind Out	0.00	0.00
Volunteer Value Exp	0.00	0.00
Total Other Expense	0.00	0.00
Net Other Income	4,274.71	0.00
Net Income	11,979.34	0.00

\$1,750 has been raised for Salamander. Donations made in Alan Traino's memory total \$1,445. Note that the NSF Fund bounced back in the first quarter of 2019, increasing about 7%, after decreasing by 8% in the fourth quarter of 2018. The new Clarksville parcel has been granted tax exemption by the Town of New Scotland.

Barn Dance Subcommittee - Emily Davis & Mike Warner:

Hay and Hatfield have signed up to work on it again, so Davis will continue as well, with one requirement: every Board member must get a raffle gift. Money doesn't need to be spent on this, and Hatfield can provide a standard letter pleading for businesses to contribute a gift.

Investment Committee - John Fioroni:

Status quo

Membership Committee - Peter Youngbaer:

Membership Renewals and New Members: All renewal notices for memberships up through June 22 have been sent, and second and third notices, as appropriate. The recent NRO was good, with 5 renewals and 1 new member on site, in addition to the usual PayPal and check renewals. The data base is current as of today, May 27.

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

November 19, 2018	April 22, 2012 (baseline)
Life: 63	Life: 18
Family Life: 9	Family Life: 0
Benefactor: 8	Benefactor: 10
Regular: 71	Regular: 88
Family: 17	Family: 16
Institutional: 7	Institutional: 3
Total: 176	Total: 135

Note: Total in March was 178; November was 173; September was 180. High point was 209 in March, 2017.

Institutional Members: We slipped two with **Helderberg-Hudson Grotto** and **Northern New Jersey Grotto** missing their March renewals. The rest are: *Boston Grotto, Central Connecticut Grotto, Vermont Cavers Association, New Jersey Initial Response Team, Camp Echo Lake, and Cornell University*. If your grotto or organization isn't listed here, please urge them to renew or join. Thank you.

Problems: The only current problem we seem to have is with email addresses. Several members have contacted me and/or board members saying they are not receiving email notices, such as the newsletter announcement. When I go into the database to check, I have already entered their correct email, so something is not translating. I've sent two messages in recent months to Mike and Christa, copying the officers on the latest one. Indeed, even in my own case, the emails are continuing to go to my old email address, which is not in the database. Something is not working right. If we're using MailChimp, someone needs to check that it is sending only to current members and extracting the email address that is currently in the NCC Member 1 database. This is absolutely critical for elections – first, that we're sending to everyone eligible; second, that it's to the correct email address; and third, that people whose membership has lapsed do NOT receive a ballot.

[**Ed Note:** While synchronization issues between our membership database and MailChimp is likely the cause of missing or misdirected newsletters and general mailings, the election system is independent and directly uses the database, meaning that it is not subject to this problem. This was clarified in the e-mail thread Peter mentions above.]

Plans: Normal Operations: Will continue to send renewal notices, as well as second and third notices, as applicable. I have started distributing swag to members. This will phase in over the year as folks come up for renewal. Bill Folsom also reminded me we have not updated the Life Member Certificates. With Bob Simmons no longer Acting President, we can do that. I will create a template and circulate to the officers for approval.

I would also like to reiterate what I said last time, that I am more than willing to step aside and let someone else be the Membership Chair, having done this for a little more than 7 years now. New blood might mean new energy and new approaches to the members and potential members. I wanted to put that on the table, especially if there is anyone interested in taking over. I am happy to train. Thank you.

Reminder: new email address: pyoungbaer@gmail.com

Office Committee Report - Emily Davis & Mike Warner:

Status Quo, spending at least 5 hours per week on bat project.

Publications – Christa Hay:

The newsletter was sent out. Website should be updated to show current meetings. Any request for swag let me know.

Technology Committee Report – Mike Chu:

Progress: Status Quo on the main website. Voting system went relatively smoothly. Minor hiccups from old software compatibility with new versions of PHP, but nothing that couldn't be fixed in a few hours time.

Problems: Reports continue with mass email being sent to old/incorrect email addresses. Hope to gain access to the mail chimp list to help double check email addresses, etc. Until I'm able to access it, please contact Christa Hay for problems of this nature.

Plans: Create new mass mailing list if access and incorrect email addresses can't be resolved. (I don't want the job of sending mass emails but the problems have continued unresolved for way too long).

Volunteer Value Committee – Vince Kappler:

Vince Kappler
volunteervalue@necaveconservancy.org

Progress: Year to date totals: 738.5 hours of volunteer work for NCC projects for a total value of \$34,578. Members also reported traveling a total of 6,058 miles to work on NCC projects.

The Treasurer, EC, and Office committees reported this cycle as well as Devon who reported time/miles working on the NYSCPP Grant. Also, many thanks to Paul, Thom and Devon for the data on their special projects and for including names of other NCC members who participated when appropriate. I suspect managers spent considerable time prepping for preserve openings and the officers should encourage them, as well as any other committee, to send me their VV information.

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

Problems: None at this time

**Attachment D
Secretary's Report**

**EC Meeting Minutes
April 28, 2019, 10:00am
Thacher Park Visitor Center**

Called to order 10:00am
Present: B. Simmons, T. Engel, B. Folsom, M. Berger, W. Russell

1) NCC Certificate of Merit proposal

We talked about this at the last Board meeting, and Engel would like to get a motion on the upcoming Board agenda to create the award and a committee to select recipients, so that we will be able to present it to the initial recipients at our upcoming Membership Appreciation Day event. His proposed motion text is:

Engel moves that the NCC Certificate of Merit is created. The NCC Board may award up to three such certificates a year. Nominations may be made by any NCC member in good standing to the NCC Executive Committee, who shall serve as the awards committee. Eligible individuals must be NCC members. No person shall receive the certificate more than once.

Engel's notes in advance of this EC meeting also suggested candidates we might discuss as the first year's recipients, assuming the EC is in fact approved as the award committee, but Berger pointed out that discussion of candidates should probably not happen during the Trustee-invited part of the EC meeting, since award committee members are generally ineligible for the award in question, and if we discuss recipients with Trustees present, it would essentially make it inappropriate to consider giving the award to a Trustee, which would exclude way more people than necessary.

Engel asked if attendees like the limit of three per year, and there was general agreement that it was the right amount. Folsom asked why someone can only receive it once; Berger indicated that he likes this rule, because there are numerous people who continually contribute to the NCC, and we don't want such lifelong contributors to feel slighted if they don't receive the award in any given year. Folsom asked if this was envisioned like becoming an NSS Fellow, and we agreed that it's envisioned as something similar for the NCC. Simmons noted that we often follow the example set by the NSS, which may not always be the best idea, but they have an awards committee as a separate entity (they're bigger, though). Berger feels that the EC will work well for our needs with this award

because whereas an NSS Fellow award isn't only granted for NSS-specific contributions (and so the NSS's governing body may not be most familiar with the contributions for which someone is nominated), this award is only for NCC contributions, so the awards committee needs to be fully aware of minutiae of who's done what for the NCC. Folsom asked if the award would be a physical thing (it will – a nice certificate). It should also result in a nice photo op and newsletter article. Simmons inquired whether we should have a landowner award, and we agreed that it seemed like a good idea, but should be an entirely separate award, likely granted to any landowner making a donation or doing something significant to conserve or protect karst.

2) What to do if a Board member is charged, indicted, or convicted of a crime

Engel raised this topic in the hypothetical, following up on feelings expressed by some members some time ago that anyone charged with a crime would need to be removed from the Board; there is no issue we are presently aware of involving any members of the Board for which this is relevant. Berger noted that in this country, the presumption of innocence seems to mean that taking action to remove someone from office for a crime they've been accused, but not convicted, of would be jumping the gun; Engel agreed.

We then moved on to discussing what would happen if someone were convicted of a crime. Initially, on the surface, it's easy to say that obviously, we shouldn't allow anyone convicted of a crime to serve on the Board. However, we also looked at situations that call such a quick judgment into question. Would we in fact want to prevent someone who shoplifted in their youth from serving on our Board later in life? Berger related a more thought-provoking story he'd recently heard about something normally considered to be a violent crime, and the circumstances surrounding the event, which have led essentially everyone familiar with the story (including the victim) to believe that the criminal is not in any way a dangerous or risky person. For hopefully obvious reasons, details of the story are omitted here, but Berger was surprised to find out that Engel actually knew of this story.

Simmons questioned whether we needed to enact policy to allow us to take action to remove someone for a crime where the circumstances warrant it (for the moment putting aside the question of how that somewhat subjective decision would be made). Berger believed we already have existing rules that would allow us to handle such cases on an ad-hoc basis. It is true, as Simmons recalled, that our Bylaws only provide for removal of Trustees or Officers for failure to attend meetings or carry out the duties of their offices. However, expulsion of members is permitted for “other conduct detrimental to the Organization,” and non-members cannot be Trustees or Officers. Thus, we agreed that the necessary tools already exist to handle such a situation, and no specific action is necessary now.

3) Possible need for an NCC phone number

This relates to the previously-discussed issue of someone not connected with the NCC having created a Clarksville Facebook page, and Folsom needing to provide a phone number to take it over. Berger noted that there are a variety of other places where we need to list a number (grant applications, insurance documents, etc.) where we presently often use the personal number of the individual filing the relevant paperwork, which might benefit from a consistent organizational number. Maybe we should get a Google Voice number, and initially have it redirecting to the Office Committee to future-proof it (if the Office Committee moves or changes hands, the Google Voice number could be pointed elsewhere without changing). That would also optionally provide voicemail (though handling voicemail would become a new responsibility). Doing something like this would require further thought, and discussion with the Office Committee. As far as the Clarksville Facebook page, Engel will take over the process of getting control of it, and will temporarily direct the number on the page to Davis and Warner if they agree.

4) Need for an updated publicity policy and strategy for dealing with info we find on-line about our caves

Engel notes that Open Street View shows our parking area, the trail, and the cave entrance at Clarksville, because someone contributed the info. He says that our current Publicity Policy states that we don't advertise the locations of caves, and that this “worked” when info was only available in magazines, but we're being delusional at this point about what's on the internet. Engel suggested that maybe when we find such postings, we should counter-post with info about being properly equipped, obtaining permits, etc. Multiple others inquired “Who are you, and what have you done with Thom?”

Berger noted that the suggestion might help, but also has a serious risk if we try to instruct people on what they should or shouldn't do in fora that we don't control – whereas we can delete problematic comments or cut off arguments on our Facebook page, for example, if we post proper information on a website we don't manage, and the other denizens choose to argue with us, there's not a great way to ensure that other readers know which of the contradictory info is right, and the existence of the disagreement might look poor.

Engel asked what to do about the current Publicity Policy itself. He suggested that maybe it should be adjusted to say “before publicizing information about our caves, contact the preserve manager.” Berger stated that this would be ineffectual, because the Publicity Policy appears in the Management Plans, which are manuals for our volunteers, and not targetted at the cave visitors, and expecting visitors to read those plans is both not what we presently do, and an unrealistic thing to try to achieve. He counter-suggested that perhaps we could assign handling of situations where cave information appears in a public place to a specific NCC position, and suggest to managers that they can deal with it themselves when they come across it, or direct the info to the person in that position, whichever they're more comfortable with. We could add a line to the Publicity Policy to empower managers to address third party info. Maybe we should have the President ask along with preserve reports whether people have come across “rogue” links?

5) Measles

Engel had a discussion with an epidemiologist at the Albany County Health Department. The basic summary of why this disease is such an infectious problem is that it's airborne, and stays in the air for up to four hours. The point of this discussion was not to single out groups, but there are some typical classes of people who believe immunization is against their religion, as reported widely in the media. Thus, Engel asked if we should add a requirement in our permits about immunizations?

Berger indicated that he had been under the impression from listening to New York news stations that various efforts to exclude non-vaccinated people from certain areas had been made and then struck down as illegal, and asked whether this generalization was in error. Simmons notes that there is a major difference in that our caves and preserves are private property rather than public spaces. Given the association of anti-vaccination sentiment with certain groups of people, Berger also expressed concern that attempting to enforce such a restriction could lead to a discrimination complaint. We all agreed that it would also likely be ineffective, because we would neither have a way to enforce it in advance (how to tell whether someone is vaccinated, and the fact that we don't meet everyone entering a cave) or after the fact (if someone got sick, how would we tell who was at fault and violated the permit – where a permit even exists), and it might worry people. The conclusion was that though the situation is worrisome, it doesn't seem like we should take a specific action at this time.

6) "Preserve Tour"

Engel had an idea, though it's not really primarily about us. He wanted to gauge our interest before approaching Mark King (Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy) about it. He wants to propose that we try to put together a tour of preserves owned by The Nature Conservancy, MHLIC, NCC, and towns in Albany County, with someone there to talk to people as they arrive at each one. Would we want to participate? Folsom wonders if the conservancies would be motivated to have a tug of war, with each group wanting to encourage use of their preserves over other groups'? The plan is to have a discussion about it at the LTA conference (Simmons & Engel are both attending).

7) NCKMS logistics and other info

Berger noted that he was in receipt of the registration info for use of our complimentary sponsor registrations (deadline is the day of the event, though there's a fee and we need to register sooner if we want to go on the pre-event caving trips). He also brought info about talks (abstracts due early June, slides early September, paper after the event). Hotel is not included. We should bring the rollup and brochures. We decided at the Board meeting that if more than two people attend, we'll split the remaining registration costs among all attendees, but we will need to figure out whose names to send in as the complimentary attendees and who to list as the NYSCPP speaker. Berger will also confer with Ingalls about the abstract.

8) Chubbworks

Berger recently learned of a resource that we're entitled to because Chubb carries our Directors and Officers insurance policy. They have a website called Chubbworks that has various documents including model policies and such, mostly aimed at HR departments, but potentially of interest to others. This came to light while he was discussing another cave organization's insurance needs with agents at the same company we use, and while he initially believed the documents there were unlikely to be of much interest to others on our Board, a question from Ingalls about our Conflict of Interest Policy that came up in her work for another non-profit's Board has caused him to rethink that. Berger can provide account invitations to the Chubbworks website to members of our Board who may be interested. Folsom suggested that he spread the word.

9) Board Manual

Berger relayed that he obtained the source document for our Board Manual from Kappler, and discussed a handful of specific questions, as well as getting some general advice for curating the document. There's much work to do, but we're making progress.

10) Need to hunt for and correct caver publication info on our caves

Berger noted that after he had to turn down multiple Knox permit requests for dates around May 1 (two weeks before Knox opens), he found that the website now no longer shows the correct May 15 date anywhere on the preserve page and says that it opens May 1. More troubling, the information has spread to other supposedly-authoritative places – without us noticing it, the Northeastern Caver over a year ago adjusted the correct info that had been provided to them and which they'd been publishing for years to say that it opens May 1 (the last time the NE Caver published the correct info was December 2017). We also know that various grottos publish their own versions of the list in their newsletters. It really seems like keeping our info straight shouldn't be such a challenge, but it clearly is. Simmons says that at this point, what we probably need to do is to distribute an open letter to the caving community apologizing for all of the confusion and providing a unified set of the correct info. Engel will try a first pass at drafting this, and we'll edit as necessary.

11) NYSCPP project

Berger explained that the large disk drive purchased for this project, which Ingalls was using to store and analyze data, had failed, and though it would've been possible given time and effort to reassemble all the raw data from our backups, this threatened to require that the in-progress data analysis start over after that delay. He spent a lot of time and effort working on it, and managed to recover all of

our data from the failed disk. We also had a discussion with Kappler about what we could claim for Volunteer Value for this effort, and concluded that we can claim the commercial value of this service, which is approximately \$1,000.

The opening of the caves is nearing, and we'll be able to get the light monitors and download their data. This project will need to be coordinated, and it's important because the first year deliverable for the project is a preliminary write-up on the light monitor data. We will also soon be able to place the temp/humidity data loggers, though it needs to be decided what locations they'll go in (we've had previous discussions about how the more interesting scientific data would come from multiple logger placements in each cave, but we only have one per entrance). Folsom inquired about the date that the preliminary light monitor data write-up is due, and when we're supposed to ask to extend the first year timeline due to the equipment delays we encountered shortly before the closed season. Simmons will find out.

12) Elections

There are three open seats, and three confirmed candidates who've submitted bios thus far (Leslie Hatfield, Erik Nieman, and Paul Rubin). Kevin Dumont has indicated that he's on the fence, and Emily Hague expressed interested, but hasn't told N. Berg yet.

13) Acquisitions

Traino -

[REDACTED]

Salamander – We got a contract out of the surveyor, sent him a check, and he cashed it, so presumably he's back on the case; Simmons will try to contact him this week. We've had difficulty getting any communication with Connors's attorney despite sending e-mail, calling, leaving vmail... it will be hard to get more time the next few weekends. Near the railroad, the second lot has a parking area with an adjacent nice flat area for changing, then back to the right is a cliff. Straight up from the parking area and up the tressle, it looks climbable. Somebody erected a wooden platform up there, though it's unclear why.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Surprise -

[REDACTED] Nothing has been heard from the DEC on the engineering project to adjust airflow.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

14) Onesquethaw

Engel e-mailed Carl Herzog about the bat exclusion "curtain," but hasn't heard back, though the closure season was their busy period.

15) Trout

Berger forwarded mail about Trout cave in WV being reopened after 10 years despite being home to the Indiana Bat and the Virginia Big-Eared Bat (both federally endangered). After a bunch of discussion about how other states seem to be able to open caves with endangered species, Simmons realized that the dates specified that the cave is now open are approximately 1.5 months between the hibernation seasons of the above-named species.

16) NRO

We had a goal to fundraise for the Traino Preserve, but since we haven't closed on [REDACTED] yet, we discussed whether we could fundraise for it. Engel suggested saying something along the lines of "We have taken up the mantle of Alan Traino, who was in the process of buying a beginner cave that would be open year-round, and though we can't say the name of the cave, we would be more

than happy to take donations toward that goal.” Folsom will be the auctioneer (not in drag this time, but he has a costume). Simmons indicated that he would appreciate if Folsom wore red pantyhose. Berger can't help the NCC set up because the Boston Grotto is running the event; Simmons will be there early to set up. Maybe we should send something to the Trustees to see who will come over Friday.

17) NSS Convention

Engel, Berger, Folsom, and Porter are planning to go. Someone should attend the NSF meeting to thank them and report on the Clarksville acquisition. We should bring the rollup and kiosk. We can designate representatives at the next Board meeting if anyone cares.

18) OTR

Berger said that though this is sort of far off, he wanted to raise the topic because he is working on a personal project with Dave Jackson to get CaveSim to OTR, and if that pans out, he will be committed to volunteering to help run CaveSim much of the time, which will make it harder for us to staff the NCC tent if it goes, thus we will need more help and should start planning. He's also going to be fundraising for that project, and said that anyone or any groups that can financially help would be greatly appreciated. Simmons suggested running an article about both the CaveSim effort and our need for help staffing the NCC presence at OTR in the NCC News (May 11 deadline).

19) Members Day

We should run a “Save the date” in the newsletter and on social media (July 6, 9am onward for the Thacher Work Day, noting that after 11 we have to pay for parking, and we have the pavilion until sunset, which will be 8:36pm). The Thacher Work Day is the same day and will have both surface and sub-surface projects – probably people who show up by a certain time for the Work Day won't be charged parking, and after that time, they would be charged, but if they RSVP to us in advance, the NCC will cover it. What about other guests? We talked about landowners, but decided it wasn't really appropriate for this event. RSVPs help plan food (burgers, dogs, veggie options, chips, potato salad), etc. Davis and Warner will help. There will be grilling from noon onward.

20) LTA Conference

Simmons will be at the meet-and-greet on Thursday, and Engel will arrive Friday morning.

21) NSF contract

Folsom gave an update – he tried to contact the lawyer that Ingalls referred him to up in the country. He sent e-mail, called, left voicemail, and reached an assistant, but got nothing back. Last Thursday or Friday, he called and left a city lawyer a message.

22) Advisory Board

We briefly discussed the major areas of expertise we'd seek in people we ask to join our Advisory Board - Geology, Biology, and land trusts.

End: 3:12pm