NORTHEASTERN CAVE CONSERVANCY, INC.

Minutes Agenda

Submitted by Christa Hay December 4, 2011, 10:00 Speleobooks – Schoharie, NY

Meeting called to order at 10:08

- 1. Introduction and greetings President Bob Addis
- 2. Attendance:

Officers: B. Addis, P. Youngbaer, B. Folsom, C. Hay

Trustees: M Chu, K. Dumont, T. Engel, a. Hicks, V. Kappler, A. Traino, P. Woodell, M. Ingalls, M. Warner

- 3. Absent with Proxy: Al Hicks Bob Simmons voted in by board as proxy.
- 4. Nominating Committee Chairman Bob Simmons announces the results of the Officers' election search. Results: President Bob Addis, Vice President Vince Kappler, Secretary- Christa Hay, Treasurer- Bill Folsom. Nominations by the Trustees for any Officer are now open.
- 5. Addis moved to convene a meeting of the Trustees to elect Officers and appoint a temporary Trustee to fill the vacancy until the next scheduled election of Trustees. Traino will preside over the elections as Chairman of the Trustees and will report.

2nd by Chu

Passed unanimously

Engel moved to recommend the running slate of officers

2nd by Warner

For: Rest, Abstained: Simmons, Kappler

Passed

Nominations for trustees:

Traino moved Peter Youngbaer is voted in as trustee

2nd by Engel

Passed unanimously

- 6. Officers and Trustees are seated.
- 7. Addis moved to thank Peter Youngbaer for his five years of dedicated service to the NCC as Vice President.

2nd by Dumont

For: Rest, Abstained: Youngbaer

Passed

8. The President notes that Vince Kappler is the last Charter Trustee on the Board and moved to thank him for his twelve years of dedicated service as a Trustee.

2nd by Dumont

For: Rest, Abstained: Kappler

Passed

- 9. President's Report Bob Addis- Attachment A
- 10. Vice President's Report -Peter Youngbaer Attachment B
- 11. Treasurer's Report -Bill Folsom Attachment C
- 12. Secretary's Report Christa Hay
 - Status quo
 - Sent out the Presidents year end letter
 - Contact Carl Herzog/Ryan von Linden concerning upcoming 2012 bat counts- response follows.

This year we are interested in a number of sites that have not been recently surveyed: Benson's, Indian Oven, McFailes, Norton Range/W Mountain, Skull, and Surprise. We also plan to visit the "original" WNS sites again: Hailes, Howe, Gage's, Schoharie, and Knox. I anticipate having you coordinate directly with Nancy Heaslip again for a number of these surveys.

Some of these are certain to present some challenges, and I want to touch base with you and Emily on what we can realistically make happen. For example, based on what I know of what is involved with simply getting into McFailes, we would be relying heavily on cavers for a survey there. Also, my understanding from Al is that Skull is closed to caving but that access was given to conduct surveys there in '81 and '82. We would be interested in pursuing access again, any current information you could provide on the site would be useful.

- November EC meeting minutes Attachment D
- Electronic vote

Addis moved to amend Vote #2 of the 9/11/11 electronic ballot to read:

The NCC donate all monies received from fund raising and donations (BUT NOT DUES COLLECTED OR DUES RENEWALS) received during the month of September 2011 including the profits from the October 1, 2011 Barn Dance to the SCHOHARIE RECOVERY FUND, P.O. BOX 111, SCHOHARIE, NY 12157 Website: www.schoharierecovery.org The NCC donation will be matched dollar for dollar up to \$1,000.00 by Thomas Engel and up to \$250.00 by Vince Kappler, and up to \$200.00 by Mike Warner for a total of \$1,450.00.

ACT 10-87 IS DELETED.

2nd by Hay **Passed unanimously**

- 13. Science Committee Larry Davis
- 14. Acquisitions Committee Report Chuck Porter
- 15. Bylaws Committee Report Joe Levinson
- 16. Publications/Publicity Committee Report Christa Hay
 - Press releases went out for Schoharie donations
 - I am researching software for creating brochures.
- 17. Fundraising Committee Report Open
- 18. Office Committee Report Emily Davis / Mike Warner
 - Plans -We plan to take over for Special Use Groups during the birth of Amy and Aaron's second child. Amy will let me know when she is able to take over again.

Progress -Sent out dues due notices through Feb 1. Got back at least 10 emails that dues would be in the mail. *Problems* -We have not been able to send out tax letters to our donors or members as they have come in. We plan to send out a bulk email in January then, hopefully, turn this over to the new membership and fund raising chairs.

- 19. Knox Cave Preserve Report Emily Davis
 - Plans- Still planning on putting out signs on our boundaries. Since I do not know where these are I need help
 with this project. The platform needs to be cleaned as Irene washed in large quantities of mud and rocks. We
 plan to count bats at about the same time as last year and would like to see the same team back again.
 Progress- Made sure trail was clear for easy spring access and work.
 Problems- None
- 20. Onesquethaw Cave Preserve Report Thom Engel
 - Seven permits have been provided for trips during the period. One trip was did not enter the cave because the
 county had done culvert work where Co Rte 109 crosses the Lawson Lake outlet. The water was high for about
 2 weeks. I was not contacted before hand and I need to track down those responsible at the county and remind
 them to inform me of such work ahead of time.

The effects of Irene are still a concern. The new opening between the old apple tree and the cave entrance has been marked. The corn has been cut and the other sink shows no change from the spring.

21. Sellecks Karst Preserve Report – Alan Traino

Discussion at meeting: Thom Engel – discovered there is an official snow mobile trail across the Sellecks property. He will pass the contact information to Alan. Cave Country Snow Mobile Club

22. Clarksville Preserve Report – Mike Chu, Thom Engel, Chuck Porter

Report at Meeting: Started cleanup at Gregory Entrance –thanks to all that helped. Possible opportunity to rent a back hoe to help clean out entrance area.

- 23. Bentleys Preserve Report Jonah Spivak
 - Updated management plan for board approval
- 24. Ella Armstrong Preserve Alan Traino
- 25. Merlins Cave Preserve Morgan Ingalls
 - Report at meeting: visited preserve a few times, Tree inventory ongoing, met one of the neighbors

- 26. Education Committee Report Thom Engel
 - Nothing to report. We have been asked to participate in the Earth Day Fair again. With Clarksville Cave closed, this will now be at the Slingerlands Grade School.
- 27. Membership Committee Donna Stanley
 - Peter Youngbaer volunteered to help on the membership. Donna will be stepping down as chair.
- 28. Website Subcommittee Report Mike Chu
- 29. Legal Committee Report Open
- 30. Special and Group Use Coordinators -Amy Cox

Dear Board members,

My apologies for not being present to discuss this in person but as I am 10 days away from my due date I cannot travel to Schoharie today.

I have served as the Special Use Coordinator for over 6 years, but I have recently reached a point in my life where I need to relinquish this responsibility to someone else.

I know that my performance in this position suffered in 2011 due to workload and other factors. This problem is likely to grow worse with the impending birth of my second child and increased job responsibilities immediately upon my return to work in late January.

I therefore request that the board make every effort to find a replacement for the position by the end of January 2012. I am quite willing to work with the person to transfer the address book materials and other documentation and notify regular users of the NCC caves of the changes in responsibilities, contact information, etc.

Aside from this issue, I also want to further encourage the board to develop a clear decision on how to handle visitation by state government entities that are self-insured. This includes the SUNY university system as well as CT state social services and a few other organizations. We recently had to turn away several groups due to this issue.

I greatly value the Northeastern Cave Conservancy, its activities and goals, and plan to stay involved in other ways in the future.

Kind Regards, Amy S Cox

- Need to advertize the position person has to be able to answer email daily, Thom / Emily will help for interim we will advertize the position
- 31. Financial and Investments Committee Joe Levinson
- 32. Volunteer Value Committee Vince Kappler
 - Progress: There were several major work projects on the Merlins Preserve this cycle and members have
 reported a significant increase in volunteer hours. I have not yet received reports from cavers who worked on
 the Barn Dance fund raiser but I expect that data shortly. Year to date totals are 1523 hours with a total value of
 \$44,069.00 up from 1069 hours and \$30,468.00 from my last report.

The web page to submit hours, http://www.necaveconservancy.org/add_vv.php is working very well and some members are using it regularly. I encourage all Officers, Committee Chairs and Property Managers to check it out.

Plans: I will send periodic VV reminders to the membership, monitor data collection, and try to answer questions as they come up.

Problems: None at this time

- 33. Nominating Committee Bob Simmons
 - 2012 Board Elections tentative schedule:
 - o Call for candidates in newsletter, emails in Jan and March
 - Voter eligibility (as of ballot email)
 - o Candidate bios by 4/30/12
 - o Ballots emailed/mailed by 5/1/12
 - o Ballots due by (10 days before 6/12 Board Meeting)
 - Procedural: would like an official NCC alias email set up
- 34. Ad hoc Committee Surprise Cave Bob Simmons see bob S. email
 - Not too much action so far, few irregular inspections, looking for volunteers to set up a regular schedule, Draft MP to Board by 3/12 meeting? Need to get historical data/info from DEC, Post-Irene conditions safety survey

this December and gate improvement assessment? , Bat Survey in January?, Rescue preplan and training for local FRs next summer?

- 35. Ad hoc Committee-Tory's Cave Bob Simmons
 - Cave closed for winter by WHLT, Scheduling a meet with new ED, Draft MP to Board by 3/12 meeting, Want to do a bat survey this winter
- 36. Addis moved to open the Committee of the Whole. The Vice President will preside. Items can be entered as new business.

2nd by Traino

Passed

- Engel Onesquethaw Management Plan review if ok without lengthy discussion will add to accept under new business.
- Bob Liebman email During the meeting on Dec. 4, mention the NSS Convention in Lewisburg next summer. Also, mention that Lewisburg, WV was voted the "Coolest Small Town in America". Poll was taken by Budget Travel last spring. Cavers seem to think that it is the caves that make the town so cool. Evidently the public thinks that Lewisburg is cool for many other reasons. Population is about 3835 people. Lewisburg is also the town where Bob & Bob started in the early started in the early '70's. Lost World Caverns is where Bob Addis set the official stalagmite sitting record 40 years ago. See page 12 of the August 2011 NSS

On a sad note, many of our caves, including big name caves, have WNS.

Y'all come now. Bob Liebman

NEWS for the authentic story.

- Engel Clarksville machine work Hurricane Irene did some major damage to the Gregorys entrance., what to
 do with standpipe, culvert pipe
- Simmons Surprise Cave bat survey this season should be done, first priority should be to check the cave to
 assess damage from Hurricane Irene. Set up more of a scheduled inspection/ give DEC the schedule.
 Simmons will be selecting volunteers.
- Ingalls Merlins access policy is the main issue for the preliminary management plan Morgan will pass edited management plan along to the board members individually
- Engel consequences?? What are the consequences when groups don't follow rules? What can we do about the issues??
- Simmons Elections 2012 see nominating report
- Insurance issue/Conservation easement what should we be using? We need an ad hoc committee for this
 and probably seek legal advice.
- Retreat general thought on either spring or fall? Do we want to do a retreat? Someone not on the board needs to facilitate the retreat.
- Acquisitions wish list: Church/Wagonwheel, Didley, Bensons, Joober Hole, Torys, Eldon French, Mass Hole, Skull, ANC, Tunnel, Spider, Caboose, Stair Step, Schroeder's Pants, BZ, Twin Lakes, Thunder Hole, Forgotten Karst, Cave Mistake, Devils Den, Crooked Swamp, Great Radium Springs, Mitchells, Pettibone Karst, Snort Ridge, South Bethlehem, Indian Oven. Send Chuck the info and we need to rank the caves
- 37. The Vice President moved to close the Committee of the Whole.

2nd by Youngbaer

Passed unanimously

38. Addis moves to approve the revised Merlins Management plan as submitted.

2nd by Youngbaer

Postponed from September 2011 meeting

Motion to be postponed until Spring 2012 meeting

39. Addis moves \$10,000.00 be directed to the Rensselaer Land Trust (RLT) for a conservation easement to be held by RLT on the Bentley property. This will be paid in five equal annual installments of \$2,000.00 each, the first payment being due upon the acceptance of the conservation easement agreement by RLT. If requested, the NCC shall forward a copy of the survey and the walking right-of-way into the property.

2nd by Traino

Postponed from September 2011 meeting

Motion to be postponed until Spring 2012 meeting

40. Hay moved to accept the minutes of the September 25, 2011 meeting. 2nd by Traino

For: Rest, Abstained: Hay, Simmons

Passed

41. Folsom moved that the NCC accept the 2012 budget as presented at the 12/04/11 Board meeting.

2nd by Youngbaer

Passed unanimously

42. Kappler moved: Act 21-89 Pressure Treated Lumber, is repealed and replaced with:

EPA banned materials may not be used in construction or maintenance on NCC property.

2nd by Hay

Passed unanimously

43. Addis moved to approve the revised Bentleys Management plan as submitted.

2nd by Warner

For: Rest, Abstained: Engel

Passed

44. Addis moved to thank Donna Stanley for her position as Membership Chair.

2nd by Hay

Passed unanimously

45. Kappler moved that Peter Youngbaer be appointed as Membership Chairman.

2nd by Folsom

For: Rest, Abstained: Youngbaer

Passed

46. Youngbaer moved Thom Engel and Emily Davis be appointed Interim Co-Chairs of the Special Use Committee.

2nd by Dumont

For: Rest, Abstained: Engel

Passed

- 47. Informational Point: Addis establishes the Ad-hoc Risk Management Committee. Member s Bob Addis, Youngbaer, Kappler.
- 48. Informational Point: Executive committee meeting will be held Wednesday February 8th, 2012 at 7pm Conference call. 605-475-6111 #814008
- 49. Addis moved that the next NCC Board meeting will be held Sunday March 4th at 10:00 am in Kerhonkson 2nd by Traino

Passed unanimously

50. Addis moved to thank Speleobooks for hosting the meeting.

2nd by Dumont

For: Rest, Abstained; Warner

Passed

51. Addis moved to adjourn.

2nd by Traino

Passed unanimously

Meeting adjourned at 2:20pm

Attachment A

President's Report

Quite frankly, it has been a spirited few months since the last meeting. Storms Irene and Lee visited the Northeast with devastation and it really wasn't until after our 9/25 Board meeting that we got complete reports back on the damage and modifications done to our Preserves. Lucky is the operative term to apply and some might argue that opportunities have opened up as a result of the storms.

A warm October gave our parking lot contractor and about two dozen volunteers a chance to finish a bulk of the work required at Merlins, our newest Preserve. It really was a glorious day! And then it snowed so we postponed the Dedication Ceremony until spring 2012.

I wrote my End of the year letter highlighting our achievements in 2011 and asking for support for next year. As a new twist, I canvassed the entire membership for their individual wish lists on future acquisitions. December's meeting should be interesting although we can't go on and on about wishes. I trust our capable Acquisitions Chair to compile a list in order of frequency of mention, adding any special notes like insider information about a particular cave.

A big issue will be the discussions concerning conservation easements vs. property insurance stay tuned or voice your opinion at the December meeting.

And finally as noted elsewhere, the Executive Committee has had serious discussions among themselves and is proposing a redistribution of talent in the leadership of the NCC. Vince Kappler has volunteered to step up as Vice President allowing Peter Youngbaer to perhaps take his slot as Trustee, free up time, and become the Membership Committee with new ideas and enthusiasm. Of course, this is all subject to the Trustees' approval.

The Board is seriously considering a retreat weekend this spring to get away with committee heads and seriously plan the future of the NCC. The future outlook for northeast caving and the caves is definitely on a positive uptrend!

Attachment B

Vice President's Report for Dec. 4, 2011

Changes: This is likely my last Vice President's report for the foreseeable future. As you know, the NCC has had a difficult time filling numerous positions, and several important tasks have gone wanting. In addition, the Office Committee has been overworked, with new pressures pending. As a result, the Executive Committee has been in discussions and is proposing a re-shuffling of some roles and functions.

First, we are recommending that Vince Kappler be elected Vice President when officers are elected at this meeting. I am then putting myself forward as the Membership Chair, taking over duties for Donna Stanley. She is amenable and regrets she hasn't been able to accomplish more. If the Board is willing, I am also willing to be appointed to the seat vacated by Vince (he was just re-elected this past spring).

My hope is to being some new energy to the Membership function of the NCC as we continue to grow. With new preserves and more responsibilities, it's vital that we cultivate both new and current membership to share the work. That is my primary goal.

The Executive Committee, with assistance from Bob Simmons and the email list he put together for the spring elections, and Mike Chu, has been working to finally get our data base upgraded and more imminently usable. Doing that is key to improved membership and fundraising functions.

Insurance, Liability, Conservation Easements: The EC has spent an inordinate amount of time on these issues. Issues have come up with preserve managers, office, and special use groups concerning the naming of additional insureds, as well as developments with the Merlins conservation easement. And, as you know, the NCC does not carry any liability or other insurance on its own. All of these elements need addressing in order to appropriately protect both our caves, the preserves, visitors, and the NCC itself. Outside entities are pressuring us for answers, and we really don't have good ones at this time.

Thom Engel and I represented the NCC at the National Caves and Karst Management Symposium in early October, and investigated with other conservancy folks there what they do. The only new information we found came from Virginia, where a quasi-public entity holds conservation easements, which are defended by the state Attorney General. So far, we have found a possible similar entity in New York, but have not investigated it yet. We have also considered broadening the discussion to include Joe Martens, now Commissioner of Parks and Recreation, and possibly other conservation organizations.

Liability insurance is also intertwined with conservation easements, and the draft Merlins easement document includes language mandating we carry it. There are other liability-related questions in the document, and I personally feel unqualified to make judgments on the document. I think it's time the NCC invested in some comprehensive legal advice on this group of issues. This will not be inexpensive, but neither would litigation, or ill will created by limiting visitation to our caves based on a lack of good information. I hope the Board will begin a discussion of this.

Routine EC Business: As usual, there were flurries of emails on a variety of subjects, including office reports, plus the quarterly meeting, done by conference call. While I was unable to attend the fall NRO, I was able to help with the press release for the flood relief efforts and saw good coverage. We did get the flood donation straightened out, and I thank the Board for being willing to back track and make that right.

WNS: As you probably all know by know, the primary piece of news on WNS was the release of the study confirming the fungus Geomyces destructans as the cause of WNS. There isn't much else to report. Bats have gone into hibernation and, if history is any lesson, we won't be getting new reports until later in the winter. There is good news that WNS has not been found in bats in southern Europe, which bodes well for WNS also not spreading deeper in the southern U.S. Too soon to say for sure, but there is increasing hope. To wit, the Southeastern Cave Conservancy announced at TAG that it will be re-opening all its seasonal bat caves come next spring. Cleaning and disinfection remains in effect.

Back in March, in my VP report, I mentioned an initiative begun by several of us within the Northeast Bat Working Group that would urge the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to relax the advisory and decon requirements in the Northeast. The subcommittee is taking that to the upcoming NEBWG meeting.

As I mentioned above, I attended the NCKMS meeting in Utah as one of the two NCC representatives. Mike Warner and Thom Engel took the NCC display with them in their vehicle. I had the pleasure of being their dinner keynote speaker, and spoke of the NCC's initial encounters and efforts with WNS. This continues to be an excellent conference, bringing together a wide variety of people whose professional and/or avocational entities are involved in cave and karst ownership and management.

I also attended and spoke at the annual convention of the National Caves Association, in Luray, Virginia, and attended the North American Symposium on Bat Research in Toronto at the end of October. I'm currently working on an extensive summary of all the WNS presentations. On a sad note, long-time bat researcher, Tom Kunz, was critically injured in an auto accident the first night of the conference. He is now in a rehab center in Massachusetts, but remains in a near-coma, although is making daily progress and has begun in interact, which is a key element in recovery from such a serious brain injury.

Unfinished business: The new survey of Shingle Gully is still not complete to my knowledge. I'm not even sure where the project stands at this point, but it is a poor reflection on us that we haven't finished this. I hope someone picks up this ball and brings it across the goal line. With that, it has been a pleasure to serve as your VP over the past several years. We have accomplished a lot during that time, but there is more to do. I hope you will agree that we need to change and grow in order for that to happen.

Peter Youngbaer Vice President

Attachment C

Treasurer's Report

November 24, 2011 (Budget 2012 updated December 4, 2011 upon Board approval)

	Nov 24, 11
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Checking	1,137.53
Money Market	10,032.25
NSF Account	39,808.03
Total Checking/Savings	50,977.81
Total Current Assets	\$50,977.81

The 2010 federal tax return was filed prior to the 11/15/11 deadline (2 postponements of 3 months each were used due to busy personal schedules). Many thanks to both Lee Del Valle and Ayzha Wolf for their volunteer efforts. Below is the Budget vs Actual for 2011, along with a proposed budget for 2012.

Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual

11/24/2011

January 1 through November 24, 2011

	Jan 1 - Nov 24, 11	Budget 11	Budget 12
rdinary Income/Expense			
Income			
Donations			
Auction Donations	992.25	1,000.00	1,000.0
Donations - Other	8,161.46	3,350.00	4,000.0
Total Donations	9,153.71	4,350.00	5,000.0
Interest Earned	191.93	180.00	50.0
Membership Income	4,076.20	5,000.00	5,000.0
Total Income	13,421.84	9,530.00	10,050.0
Expense			
Acquisitions	0.00	500.00	500.0
Bank Charges	22.07	15.00	20.
Development	0.00	1,200.00	1,445.
Donations-outgoing	5,275.81	200.00	200.
Easements	0.00	0.00	1,500.0
Education	0.00	100.00	100.
Executive			
President	0.00	150.00	150.
Secretary	0.00	75.00	75.
Treasurer	0.00	75.00	75.
VP	0.00	75.00	75.
Total Executive	0.00	375.00	375.
Legal Fees	450.00	2,000.00	2,000.
Licenses & Permits	355.00	250.00	300.
Meeting Expense	0.00	100.00	100.
Membership Expenses	0.00	100.00	100.
Miscellaneous	0.00	100.00	100.
Office Expense	0.00	100.00	100.
Postage	106.00	200.00	150.0
Preserves-Maintenance			

Bentleys	0.00	100.00	100.00
Clarksville	0.00	300.00	300.00
Ella Armstrong	1,015.46	1,100.00	100.00
Knox	0.00	25.00	100.00
Merlins	0.00	500.00	100.00
Onesquethaw	0.00	25.00	100.00
Sellecks	0.00	100.00	200.00
Total Preserves-Maintenance	1,015.46	2,150.00	1000.00
Printing	40.00	200.00	200.00
Promotion/Fundraising	379.00	780.00	800.00
Mailings	0.00	200.00	200.00
Website	0.00	60.00	60.00
Sponsorships	500.00	600.00	500.00
Taxes on Properties	111.14	300.00	300.00
Total Expense	8,254.48	9,530.00	10,050.00
Net Ordinary Income	5,167.36	0.00	0.00
Other Income/Expense			
Other Income			
In Kind donations	0.00	0.00	0.00
Volunteer Value	30,468.00	0.00	0.00
Total Other Income	30,468.00	0.00	0.00
Other Expense	,		
In Kind Out	0.00	0.00	0.00
Volunteer Value Exp	30,468.00	0.00	0.00
Total Other Expense	30,468.00	0.00	0.00
Net Other Income	0.00	0.00	0.00
Net			
Income	5,167.36	0.00	1,245.00
Net Gain or Loss from NSF Fund	-3,450.97		
NET Income after NSF Fund Gain/Loss	1,716.39		
NET INCOME after NOF Fund Galife055	1,710.39		

Attachment D Executive Committee Minutes

EC Meeting 11/13/2011 Conference Call

Conference call: Bob, Bill, Peter, Christa, Bob S.

Budget - add line for conservation easement

Membership – need to start thinking of software, Peter uses GiftWorks.

Merlins Dedication – when to hold it. Maybe after spring NRO 1:00 on Sunday. Will check with Morgan as well. Bob to set it up/

Pressure Treatment Lumber – Vince sent a motion around which covers it. Bob has a few changes.

Office Committee Issues – email from Mike and Emily about issues. Need to fill empty positions. Christa will deal with working on a database that is useful for all entities to use. Christa will talk to Mike Chu to get the database. Start asking around to fill the empty positions. Talk with rest of Board. Bill to call Donna about membership. Peter will put out "ads" for the open positions.

End of Year fund raising letter - Bob will work on wording. Should have it out the week after thanksgiving.

Preserve management plans - Onesquethaw management to be voted on at next meeting. Bob to check with Thom.

Conservation easement vs insurance discussion

Prep for December meeting-try to get agenda out right after Thanksgiving.

Newsletter vs website - should we do a newsletter online? Need to make a pitch for new editor.

Bob Simmons to talk to Vince K about vice president position.