

Nittany Grotto Inc.

Minutes from Nittany Grotto Annual Membership Meeting, June 8, 2013 at 6 PM at the Rupert Cave Preserve

Members Present: Paul Winter, Andy McKinnon, Gary Dunmire, Bryan Crowell, Anna Byers, Bette White, Will White, Steve Coraor, Mark Wolfe, Joe Turchick, Hope Brooks, Eric Pelkey, Karen Bange, George Bange, Dutch Sanders, Jon Burns, Andy Hardiman, Dave Seasholtz, Rich Schatz, Terrance Lovell, Keith Wheeland, Cynthia LaCoe, Todd Kartchner

Proxies: Gordon Dayton, Mark Jancin, Keith Christenson, Tony Canike, Ira Sasowsky, Christopher Catherman, Dwight Kempf

Call to Order: There being a quorum, the meeting was called to order by the President, Paul Winter, at 6:04 PM at the fire ring above the cave entrance at the Rupert Cave Preserve.

Minutes: The minutes of the June 9, 2012 (Members), July 17, 2012 (Board), January 12, 2013 (Board), and May 1, 2013 (Board) meetings were read and approved by the Secretary, Andy McKinnon.

Finances: The Treasurer, Andy McKinnon, reported that there was \$57.94 in the cash account and \$3332.88 in the checking account for a total of \$3390.82.

President's Remarks and Other Reports: Mr. Winter welcomed the members and thanked the Bange's for hosting the meeting.

The Newsletter Editor, Jason Huff, was not in attendance but a discussion ensued about the Nittany Grotto Caving Club's capacity to continue providing funds to the NGI to cover newsletter printing costs. It was reported that the Caving Club's funds have dropped from about \$2000 to a few hundred dollars, making it more difficult for the club to continue to support hard copy printing of the newsletter. The discussion included the following points: Whether the newsletter should appear primarily in digital format as opposed to hard copy in order to reduce costs; whether a hard copy should be made available to those members who prefer this format; and the fact that all newsletters, including archived ones, will eventually be digitized.

The Chair of the Rescue and Safety Committee, Terrance Lovell, reported that OCR is being planned and will take place in Williamsburg, PA at an unspecified date.

The MAR Committee Chair, Joe Turchick, reported that the 2013 Fall MAR field meet, hosted by the NGI, will take place at Lincoln Caverns from September 27-29th.

The Conservation Chair, Paul Winter, reported that Wobble Cobble, located near Rock Spring, PA, will be reopened.

Old Business:

J-4 Access and Management Plan. Gary Dunmire reported that the J-4 Committee is waiting to receive bids for the quarry highwall survey. It is still to be determined whether the survey must be completed by a Professional Engineer. Mr. Dunmire also reported that the lowest quote received by the Committee for liability insurance is \$2500.

Cave Reports. Will White reported that the two boxes of cave reports that have been temporarily stored at the White residence have been moved to the MAKC library in Blairsville, PA. Dr. White also reported that MAR Bulletin 21, *Karst of Sinking Valley and Kookken Cave, Huntingdon and Blair Counties*, has now sold from 20-25 copies.

New Business:

NGN Volume 34, No. 2. Keith Wheeland shared that a Dr. Rosenberg has been doing research on caves in the Dominican Republic and contacted the NGI, inquiring if we had any resources on this area of interest. Since NGN Volume 34, No. 2, dated March 25, 2013, focuses on caves in the Dominican Republic, Keith moved to donate a copy of this issue (worth \$2.00) to Dr. Rosenberg. The motion was seconded by Mr. Crowell.

Rare Biota. Mr. Crowell reported that Dr. Luis Espinasa of Marist College has discovered rare biota, possibly in Nippenose Valley, where he made previous discoveries. No additional details are available at this time.

Dwight Kempf Rescue Donation. Dwight Kempf, a member of the NGI, was seriously injured from a fall in Ellison's Cave in May, 2013. Dwight was stabilized and successfully brought out of the cave by a well coordinated rescue operation. A fund, Dwight Kempf's Angels, has been set up on behalf of Dwight in order to raise money to support the cave rescue community. Suzie Sanders of the Greater Allentown Grotto (of which Dwight is also a member) said that the money would be distributed by Dwight's family to those rescue organizations that are most in need of funding. Karen Bange moved for the NGI to donate \$250 to this fund. The motion was unanimously seconded.

NSS Headquarters. Mr. Wheeland announced it is possible to take a tour of the NSS Headquarters in Huntsville, Alabama. This announcement was made relative to the \$250 donation made by NGI to the NSS Headquarter fund; Mr. Wheeland suggested that by taking a tour we can determine how our donation is being put to use.

Elections. Paul Winter was re-elected President and Gary Dunmire was re-elected Vice President. Hope Brooks was elected Secretary-Treasurer, replacing Andy McKinnon. Joe Turchick was re-elected Director at Large and Terrance Lovell was elected Director at Large, replacing Hope Brooks.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:13 PM.

Respectfully Submitted, Andy "Karst" McKinnon, Secretary/Treasurer