

# Nittany Grotto, Inc.

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## **Minutes from the Nittany Grotto, Inc. Annual Membership Meeting, June 13, 2015 at 6 pm at the Rupert Cave Preserve**

**Members Present:** Hope Brooks, Paul Winter, Will White, Gary Dunmire, Andy McKinnon, Bet White, Dave Seasholtz, Eric Hill, Bryan Crowell, Abbe Hamilton, Dave Ader, Matt Eckess, Kathleen Kerrigan, Dwight Kempf, Keith Wheeland, Joe Turchick, Todd Karrschner, Chris Bonson, Karen Bange, George Bange, Danny Brumbaugh, Tom Godfrey, Eric Pelkey, Rich Obanion, Andria Obanion, Ben Schantz, Jeff Morrissey, Lexi Golestani

**Non-members Present:** Alysa Darrenkamp

**Proxies:** Kiya Riverman (held by Bryan Crowell), Jeff Jahn (held by Hope Brooks), Keith Christenson (held by Keith Wheeland), Tony Canike (held by Bryan Crowell), Christopher Catherman (held by Bryan Crowell), Jenna Claus (held by Paul Winter), Amand Labrado (held by Paul Winter), Aaron Clair (held by Paul Winter)

**Call to Order:** There being a quorum, the meeting was called to order by the President, Paul Winter, at 6:13 PM.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the June 7, 2014 (Members) and September 10, 2014 (Board) meetings were read by Hope Brooks and approved without changes.

**Finances:** The Treasurer's report was read by Hope Brooks. Total income for the year was \$446.75, with \$764.64 in expenditures. Net income loss for the year was \$317.99.

**President's Remarks and Other Reports:** Paul Winter welcomed NGI members, thanked them for their efforts in making the meeting a success and thanked George and Karen Bange for hosting the meeting.

### **Committee Reports:**

*NGI Newsletter Committee* – The newsletter is ready to be printed. Paul Winter is working with Elizabeth Ramos to send out the newsletters and will send out a survey to members regarding the transition from print-to-digital.

*Cave Access Committee* – Following changing cave access in Central Pennsylvania, the Cave Access Committee was formed to keep close contact with landowners.

*Rescue and Safety Committee* – National Cave Rescue Commission (NCRC) will host a cave rescue seminar July 24 – August 1, 2015 in Park City, Kentucky.

*J-4 Committee* – The committee proposed the Mid-Atlantic Karst Conservancy (MAKC) take over negotiations with Graymont. There is no formal acceptance from MAKC. Jeff Jahn will attend a meeting with Graymont to explore the option of a cheaper highwall survey.

*Conservation Committee* – Karen Bange reported on the McAllisterville Cave key use. In the last eleven years, there were 103 trips to McAllisterville Cave. The current fee for mailing the key is \$3, netting a total of \$309 over the last eleven years.

**Old Business:**

*NGI Key Holder* – Paul remains key holder. There is a copy of Milroy 2’s key. Todd Karshner is the primary keyholder for Milroy 2 Cave.

*MAR Bulletin #22* – The bulletin will contain information on Clinton, Columbia, Union, and Montour counties. All of the information on Clinton County has been checked by Bryan “Crow” Crowell. JD Lewis is checking over the info for Lycoming County. Juniata County is still in progress, and Will has made contact with Tom Metzgar for Juniata County.

**New Business:**

*Bat Counts* – The Nittany Grotto will go caving in seldom-visited caves in the winter to determine which caves are used by bats, which bat species are present, and how many.

*Cave Sim* – Bryan “Crow” Crowell moved that the Nittany Grotto provide \$100 dollars to support Cave Sim at the 2015 NSS Convention. Dave Ader seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

*Gift to Moldovan Caver* – Members of the Nittany Grotto board were approached by a Moldovan caver searching for international caving patches. Bryan “Crow” Crowell moved we send a Nittany Grotto patch to Moldova. Lexi Golestani seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

*MAR 2018* – 2018 is the Nittany Grotto’s 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary. It is suggested that members begin pondering potential sites for a MAR.

*Orientation to Cave Rescue (OCR)* – The Caving Club is interested in hosting an OCR in the fall. If Club Sports will not support the effort, Ben Schantz proposed that Nittany Grotto may work with the NCRC to host an OCR. Paul Winter confirmed that the Nittany Grotto will work to help with the OCR.

*MudFest* – July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015. There is a callout to have people lead trips. Attend! Sign up online if you want to lead trips.

*Elections* – Will White moves that we re-elect the current officers, and Gary Dunmire seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Paul Winter was re-elected as President; Hope Brooks was re-elected as Secretary/Treasurer; Dave Seasholtz was re-elected Vice President; Bryan “Crow” Crowell and Andy “Karst” McKinnon were re-elected Directors at Large.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:48 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Hope Brooks, Secretary/Treasurer