

Nittany Grotto, Inc.

Minutes from the Nittany Grotto, Inc. Annual Membership Meeting, June 11, 2016 at 6 pm at the Rupert Cave Preserve

Members Present: Hope Brooks (reporting), Paul Winter, Dave Seasholtz, Andrew McKinnon, Bryan Crowell, Will White, Bette White, Keith Wheeland, Terrance Lovell, George Bange, Karen Bange, Mark Wolfe, Jeff Morrissey, Aaron Clair, Harrison Cassady, Eric Hill, Eric Pelkey, Lexi Golestani, Alex Malone, Carrie Shafer, Gary Dunmire, Dwight Kempf

Non-members Present: Carrie Shafer

Proxies: Susie Chirano (held by Dwight Kempf), Chris Catherman (held by Bryan Crowell), Jenn Macalady (held by Hope Brooks), Ben Schantz (held by Paul Winter), Jon Burns (held by Dwight Kempf), Keith Christenson (held by Hope Brooks), Beth Ramos (held by Paul Winter), Sara Xenophon (held by Paul Winter)

Call to Order: There being a quorum, the meeting was called to order by the President, Paul Winter, at 6:30 PM.

Minutes: The minutes of the June 13, 2015 (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 \$430.00, with \$747.63 in expenditures. Net income loss for the year was \$317.63.

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 – Continue to send articles to Beth Ramos, and she will put them in the newsletter. Paul has been scanning the Nittany newsletters, and he would like some help working on OCR-ing the newsletters.

Cave Access Committee – The committee follows changing cave access in Central Pennsylvania. The Cave Access Committee continues to keep close contact with landowners.

Library committee – The Nittany Grotto library resides in Bryan Crowell's basement. MAR Bulletin #22 has been added to the library with a signature by Will White.

Rescue and Safety Committee – Nittany Grotto is considering a better storage option for our rescue cache. Currently, squeeze boxes and rescue gear live at Terrance Lovell's place.

Conservation Committee – Karen Bange reported on the McAlisterville Cave key use. Miller Cave has a new gate on it, and the Nittany Grotto will send a formal thank you note to Chris "Foom" Sanders for his work on the gate.

Old Business:

MAR Bulletins – MAR Bulletin #22 was completed in February, and it covers Clinton, Lycoming, Union, Montour, and Juniata counties. There is a need for an updated bulletin on Mifflin and Centre County. Garret Czmor is working on Huntingdon County.

MAR 2018 – 2018 is the Nittany Grotto's 70th anniversary. Karen Bange has volunteered to organize a fall 2018 MAR at Rupert. Eric Pelkey and Hope Brooks volunteered to do the guidebook.

Cave Rescue – The Nittany Grotto will continue to support the mission of the National Cave Rescue Commission (NCRC) through sending members to Orientation to Cave Rescue and NCRC trainings.

Cave Sim – Bryan "Crow" Crowell moved that the Nittany Grotto provide \$100 dollars to support Cave Sim at the 2016 NSS Convention. Jeff Morrissey seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Bat Counts – One bat count for PA Game Commission in Penn Aqua in February. Further information on PA Game Commission bat counts is pending. Karen Bange reports that the PA Game Commission is asking for volunteers to help on bat counts.

New Business:

Fall MAR 2016 – Bald Eagle Grotto will be hosting Fall MAR, and it will be a glow in the dark theme.

Spring MAR 2017 – The spring MAR will be in June. The Nittany Grotto is considering having a Nittany Grotto spring picnic in late April or early May to incorporate students into the celebration.

Membership Cards – The Nittany Grotto is starting a PayPal account. After the meeting, Hope Brooks will be taking membership dues for those who are interested in paying for 2016 to 2017 early.

McAlisterville Cave Lock – George Bange noted that the lock on McAlisterville Cave has not been changed in years. Arrangements have been made to change the lock at McAlisterville Cave. Eric Pelkey moves that the grotto purchases a new lock for McAlisterville Cave. Eric Hill seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Bat Boxes for Sale – The Nittany Grotto is selling bat boxes for \$50. There are two different styles to choose from. Contact Gary Dunmire to purchase a bat box.

Elections – Eric Pelkey nominated Paul Winter for president; Paul Winter was re-elected as President. Bryan "Crow" Crowell nominated Dave Seasholtz for Vice President; Dave Seasholtz was re-elected as Vice President. Bryan "Crow" Crowell nominated Hope Brooks as Secretary/Treasurer; Hope Brooks was re-elected as Secretary/Treasurer. Eric Pelkey nominated Bryan Crowell, and Bryan Crowell declined; Geoff Eckess nominated Terrance Lovell, and Hope Brooks nominated Andy McKinnon for Directors at Large. Terrance Lovell and Andy McKinnon were elected as Directors at Large.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:13 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Hope Brooks, Secretary/Treasurer