

Nittany Grotto, Inc.

Minutes from the Nittany Grotto, Inc. Annual Membership Meeting, June 2, 2018 at 6 pm at the Rupert Cave Preserve

Members Present: Hope Brooks (reporting), Paul Winter, Andy McKinnon, Eric Pelkey, Karen Bange, Danny Brumbaugh, Jacob Cramer, Bryan Crowell, Matt Eckess, Terrance Lovell, Liz Heness, Eric Hill, John Karge, Todd Karschner, Jeff Morrissey, Rick O'Banion, Eric Reitz, Ben Schantz, Rick Smith, Keith Wheeland, Bet White, Will White

Nonmembers Present: Tommy Cleckner, Gary Dunmire

Proxies: Dave Ader, Christopher Catherman, Susie Chiriano, Abbe Hamilton, Matthew Kisenwether, Dwight Kempf, and Dave Seasholtz (held by Paul Winter); Joe Turchick (held by Karen Bange)

Call to Order: There being a quorum, the meeting was called to order by the President, Paul Winter, at 6:03 PM.

Minutes: The minutes of the May 13, 2017 meeting were distributed and approved as written without changes.

Finances: The Treasurer's report was read by Hope Brooks. Total assets as of 6/2/2018 from FY 2017 was \$2,913.89. Total income for the year was \$1,038.5 with \$77.59 in Paypal, with \$550.00 in expenditures.

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 at Rupert Cave consecutively since 2010.

Committee Reports:

NGI Newsletter Committee – Volume 62, No. 1 was published in April of 2018. Newsletter Editor Abbe Hamilton would like to have articles submitted to the newsletter.

Cave Access Committee – McClure Cave was gated by Chris "Foom" Sanders. Penn State's Ag Field caves are closed, and we are working on managing cave access. The Coonscat Cave owner is considering opening Coonscat Cave again, but he is concerned about liability.

Library Committee – The Nittany Grotto library perpetually resides in Bryan Crowell's basement. Usage in 2017 was minimal.

Rescue and Safety Committee – Nittany Grotto is considering a better storage option for our rescue cache. They are considering moving the gear into a trailer, but purchasing a trailer is expensive. If anyone has a box trailer, we are looking for one. There is an OCR in Chambersburg, PA on June 22nd through 24th. Terrance

Lovell reports that NCRC training in Alabama was successful. Huntingdon County emergency services have contacted Paul Winter asking for cave rescue contacts for the area. Paul has provided a list of contacts.

Conservation Committee – No report.

Old Business:

Fall MAR 2018 – 2018 is the Nittany Grotto's 70th anniversary. September 28-30th is the date of Fall MAR which Karen Bange is organizing.

Budget – There is no budget as this point.

Guidebook –The guidebook will be organized by Hope Brooks and Eric Pelkey.

Gifts – Plastic mugs will be handed out as gifts, and Hope Brooks will design the mug art by July 7th, 2018.

Event Flyers – Hope Brooks will be creating event flyers.

Presentations – Presentations include Cuba (by Hope Brooks and Eric Pelkey) and Cambodia (Dave Ader and Abbe Hamilton).

Registration – Hope Brooks will organize registration online via Eventbrite.

Catering – Karen Bange is organizing the banquet, and Doan's Bones will be catering the event.

Bathrooms – George Bange will manage porta johns, and George and Karen Bange will purchase six at \$50 apiece.

Vendor – Barry Duncan will be the vendor, and his registration will be covered by the grotto.

Music – Danny Brumbaugh will play live music for the event. He will play one or two sets, and jamming is welcome after Danny plays.

Things to Consider – We will need to consider EZ-Ups, computers, and power.

Budget – \$4,236 overall and \$30 per person. Hope Brooks moves to accept the budget, and Benjamin Schantz seconds the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business:

Keys to McAllisterville, Seawra, and Mt. Rock – Karen and George manage keys for McAllisterville, Seawra, and Mt. Rock caves. Rick Smith is willing to hold the keys to the caves. Karen Bange motions that Rick Smith become the keyholder for the caves, and Andy McKinnon seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Bolting Project in McAllisterville – Andy Filer would like to start a bolt climb in the domes. The Nittany Grotto will discuss Andy’s project before he begins climbing.

Future Location of Nittany Grotto Annual Meeting – We are investigating future locations for the Nittany Grotto Annual Meeting because Rupert may not be tended to as Karen and George Bange will begin travelling the country.

Access to Rupert Cave – Karen and George Bange are working to arrange access policies with MAKC.

Demolition of NSS White House – Ben Schantz moved that we donate \$100 to the demolition fund. Keith Wheeland seconded the motion. The motion failed.

Caving Club, NGI, and Penn State – The Caving Club is a Penn State interest group which can talk about caving, but they cannot organize trips. The Caving Club will keep some of their funds for social events, and they will donate the rest of their money to the Nittany Grotto Inc. As an interest group, the Caving Club must consist of at least 51% of student members. Non-student members can attend Caving Club meetings.

Rescue Gear Donation – Nittany Grotto will accept gear from the defunct White Deer Search and Rescue group. We will provide a receipt noting monetary value. Eric Hill moves to accept gear from the defunct White Deer Search and Rescue group after providing a receipt, and Eric Pelkey seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Elections:

President – Eric Pelkey nominates Paul Winter as President, and Paul Winter accepts the nomination. Hope Brooks closes nominations. Paul Winter was voted in as president again.

Vice President – Hope Brooks nominates Eric Pelkey as Vice President, and Eric Pelkey accepted. Ben Schantz nominates Eric Hill as Vice President. Liz Heness nominated Eric Reitz as Vice President, and Eric Reitz declined graciously. Eric Reitz nominates Rick Smith as Vice President, and Rick Smith accepts nomination. Keith Wheeland moved that nominations for Vice President be closed, and Ben Schantz seconded the motion. Eric Hill received 10 votes, Eric Pelkey received 8 votes, and Rick Smith received 10 votes. In a runoff for Vice President Eric Hill received 7 votes, and Rick Smith received 11 votes. Rick Smith is the new Vice President.

Secretary-Treasurer – Keith Wheeland nominates Hope Brooks as Secretary-Treasurer, and Hope Brooks accepts nomination as Secretary-Treasurer. Keith Wheeland moved to close nominations, and Ben Schantz seconded. Hope Brooks remains Secretary-Treasurer.

Director at Large – Keith Wheeland nominates Eric Pelkey for Director at Large, and Eric Pelkey accepts. Brian “Crow” Crowell nominates Eric Hill as Director at Large, and Eric Hill accepts. Andy Mckinnon will run again after a rousing stump speech. Eric Pelkey nominates Danny Brumbaugh, and he accepts. Brian “Crow” Crowell moves nominations be closed, and Eric Hill seconds the motion. The

grotto unanimously votes to close nominations. Paul Winter recuses from the vote with his personal and proxy votes. Eric Pelkey received 5 votes, Eric Hill received 10 votes, Andy McKinnon received 9 votes, and Danny Brumbaugh received 11 votes. Eric Hill and Danny Brumbaugh are Directors at Large.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:16 pm.

** These draft minutes have not yet been approved by the membership.*

Respectfully Submitted,
Hope Brooks, Secretary/Treasurer