

Nittany Grotto, Inc.

Minutes from the Nittany Grotto, Inc. Annual Membership Meeting, May 13, 2017 at 6 pm at the Rupert Cave Preserve

Members Present: Hope Brooks (reporting), Paul Winter, Eric Pelkey, Eric Hill, Eric Reitz, Aaron Clair, Dave Seasholtz, Karen Bange, Keith Wheeland, Terrance Lovell, Rick Smith, George Bange, J Broderick, Gary Dunmire, Todd Karschner, David Ader, Andy McKinnon, Sarah Xenophon, and Madelyn Akley.

Nonmembers Present: Carrie Shafer, Two Illegible Sign-Ins were recorded

Proxies: Matthew Kisenwether (held by Paul Winter), Bryan Crowell (held by Paul Winter), and Tony Canike (held by Eric Pelkey)

Call to Order: There being a quorum, the meeting was called to order by the President, Paul Winter, at 6:20 PM.

Minutes: The minutes of the June 11, 2016 meeting were read by Hope Brooks and approved without changes.

Finances: The Treasurer's report was read by Hope Brooks. Bank total as of 5/13/2017 was \$3,196.99. Total income for the year was \$686.25, with \$310.00 in expenditures. Net income for the year was \$376.25.

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 –Beth Ramos has graduated, and left her position as newsletter editor. Abbe Hamilton volunteered to take over the position. There is a new newsletter that will be mailed out and shared digitally.

Cave Access Committee – Coonscat cave's entrance may be re-opened and gated, and McClure Cave will be gated. Chris "Foom" Sanders will be consulted for advice to construct both gates. The Cave Access Committee continues to try to open caves in the region and maintain good landowner relations.

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

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. CREST may have a parking lot and funding for a trailer. The Rescue and Safety Committee will follow up. Todd Karschner noted that he may have a 40-foot aluminum trailer at the end of the year. Currently, squeeze boxes and rescue gear live at Terrance Lovell's place.

Conservation Committee – Karen Bange reported on 2015 - 2017 McAllisterville cave key use. September 25, 2016 the lock was replaced. In February, the lock was missing, and a new lock was put on the cave. The weekend of May 20, 2017 there will be a McAllisterville cave hillside cleanup organized by the Pennsylvania Cave Commission (PCC). Details are on the Nittany Grotto Facebook page and on the PCC's Facebook page. Paul Winter reported on Sharer Cave visitation for 2016. There is no information on spray paint vandalism in the cave. Paul Winter reported that there was one trip into Chime Cave. Andy McKinnon led a trip into Chime to collect *Stygobromus stellmackii* and other amphipods. In 2016, Paul Winter reported 2 trips to Mt. Rock Cave.

Old Business:

MAR Bulletins – There is talk of updating Mifflin and Centre County bulletin.

MAR 2018 – 2018 is the Nittany Grotto's 70th anniversary. Karen Bange has volunteered to organize a fall 2018 MAR at Rupert. A proposed budget based upon 150 registrants for the MAR was distributed. Karen proposed providing a token gift item, such as a 70th anniversary beer vessel, instead of door prizes. PCC will provide a breakfast, and Danny Brumbaugh will provide musical entertainment. September 22, 2018 will be our date for the Fall MAR. Dave Seasholtz will organize cave trips for the MAR. George Bange proposed for the 70th anniversary having a free or reduced price MAR.

New Business:

Penn Lines Article – Karen Bange reported that Hope Brooks was interviewed in a Penn Lines article.

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 2017 to 2018 early.

Elections – Aaron Clair nominated Paul Winter for president; Paul Winter ran unopposed and was re-elected as President. Dave Ader nominated Dave Seasholtz for Vice President; Dave Seasholtz was re-elected as Vice President. Jay Broderick nominated Hope Brooks as Secretary/Treasurer; Hope Brooks was re-elected as Secretary/Treasurer. Aaron Clair nominated Andy McKinnon; Eric Pelkey nominated Eric Hill; Sarah Xenophon nominated Eric Pelkey; Paul Winter nominated Eric Reitz and he declined; Hope Brooks nominated Aaron Clair; Aaron Clair nominated Sarah Xenophon and she declined; Jay Broderick nominated Abbe Hamilton and she declined; and Dave Seasholtz nominated Terrance Lovell. Andy McKinnon and Eric Pelkey were elected as Directors at Large.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:19 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Hope Brooks, Secretary/Treasurer