



**Nittany Grotto, Inc.**  
P.O. Box 685  
State College, PA 16804-0685  
[www.caves.org/nittany](http://www.caves.org/nittany)

## **Nittany Grotto Inc.**

### **Annual Membership Meeting Minutes**

5/27/2020

Teleconference

#### **Call to Order:**

Present: Rick Smith, Aaron Clair, Dwight Kempf, Jake Lee, Devin Moore, Will White, Bette White, Dave Wasson, Bryan Crowell, George Bange, Karen Bange, Terrance Lovell, Paul Winter, Dave Ader, Alex Vizcarra, Olivia McAllister, Harrison Cassady, Jenn Macalady, Christopher Catherman, Michael Swope, Alec Mattheus, Andria Moore, Andy McKinnon, Derek von Neida w/ 2 proxies (Abbe Hamilton and Jake Weller), Andrew Kowalenko, Susie Chiriano, Tommy Cleckner, Julian Gonzalez Medina.

30 present out of 25 needed for quorum.

7:07 pm. A quorum is established, and President Rick Smith called the meeting to order.

#### **Approval of the Minutes:**

Minutes from previous meeting on June 1, 2019, were approved unanimously

#### **Secretary-Treasurer's Report:**

Secretary-Treasurer Aaron Clair gave the financial report. The grotto currently has \$2,673.11 in assets. Full report is attached. Please contact Aaron Clair with any questions.

#### **Committee Reports:**

*Library Committee* - Bryan "Crow" Crowell gave the Library Committee report. The library is still in Crow's basement. Nobody has used it in the past year. Derek Von Nieda indicated student members may be interested in using the library for looking for caves and learning about caves. Derek proposed one trip to visit the library a semester. Paul Winter and Olivia McAllister have digitized more of the Nittany Grotto Newsletter, which is available on the website as scanning is completed.

*Rescue and Safety Committee* - Terrance Lovell gave the Safety Committee report: Nittany Grotto member Alec Matheus and Terrance attended the OCR in Burnsville VA. That is the only activity this year: There are many cancelled NCRC events. There were no cave rescue events.

*NGI Newsletter Committee* - Paul Winter read Abbe Hamilton's Newsletter Report: She is willing to remain as the editor. If someone local to State College would like to become the editor, she will gladly give up her position. Until that time, she shall edit our newsletter.

#### **New Business:**

*NGI Meeting Location* – In 2021 Karen and George may not be present at the Rupert preserve, but George states that we are free to use it for the annual meeting in 2021.



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*Treasurer and Secretary Position* - Devin Moore suggested we split the Treasurer and Secretary positions. To amend the bylaws, 21 days written notice is required. Olivia suggested that an odd number of positions on the board of directors prevents tie votes. It was explained that the position has changed since its creation when there was one Nittany Grotto Inc. meeting per year, to 1 Membership meeting and 25 Informal meetings per year, and this position involves a lot of work. The membership or directors may propose a meeting to address this issue in accordance with the bylaws. Discussion was tabled until such meeting is called or the next annual business meeting.

**Unfinished Business:**

*Miller Cave* – An update on Miller Cave was given by Paul Winter. Talks continue with the PSU farm managers regarding access and management of Miller and Chime cave. Several of the managers expressed support for the Nittany Grotto Inc. managing caves for the university. The presentation at the March farm manager’s meeting was postponed due to COVID-19. The NSS can extend liability insurance to us for trips. An update will be given at the 2021 meeting.

**Officer Elections:**

*President:* Rick Smith nominated. Bette White moves that nominations close, is seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

*Vice President:* Aaron Clair nominates Harrison Cassady as VP. Tommy Cleckner moved to close nominations, is seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

*Secretary-Treasurer:* Tommy Cleckner nominates Aaron Clair. Bryan Crowell moves we close nominations. Bette White seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

*Director at Large:* Paul Winter nominates Jake Lee. Jake accepts nomination. Rick Smith nominates Tommy Cleckner, Tommy accepts nomination. Aaron Clair moves we close nominations, Harrison Cassady seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

**Adjournment:**

Aaron moves to adjourn the meeting. Tommy seconds. All but Dave Ader in favor of adjourning the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 7:41 pm.

Minutes prepared by,  
Aaron Clair  
Secretary-Treasurer, Nittany Grotto Inc.