

Minutes of the Annual CCH meeting

Feb. 8, 2004

Meeting was called to order at 9:20 am.

Attendance

Don Coons, Mike Warner, Emily Davis, Cindy Heazlit, Rose Herrera, Thomas Engle, Ric Elhard, Nevin and Judy Davis, Doug and Hazel Medville, Mark Aeder, Fred Stone, Russ and Lyn Brauher, Bill Halliday, Spike Werner, Ken Kloppenborg, Ole Fulks, Helen Donavon and John Replogle, (a representative from the Nature Conservancy).

Due to distance and other obligations unable to attend were directors Steve Lewis and Chris Frotton. With 6 directors in attendance a quorum was established. After a round of introductions the meeting was commenced.

Presidents Report

President Don Coons reported that the CCH has made great strides since its inception in 2002. The CCH has reached a great plateau from the first \$50.00 dollars donated to incorporate in the state of Hawaii to over \$40,000.00 in membership and donations pledged to acquire land and further conservation of caves in Hawaii. The pledges and grants have allowed the conservancy to purchase and own 6 Acres and have another 35 in escrow for acquisition. As president of a new Cave Conservancy he was pleased by the efforts and progress of the organization. He expressed the vision to preserve 350 acres of land containing the Kanohina cave system. This lava cave is currently the second longest recorded to date and contains some of the most pristine cave archeology in Hawaii.

Treasurers Report

Treasurer Cindy Heazlit presented reports and spread sheets representing the financial status of the organization. These documents represent one of the greater bodies of work done in behalf of the organization. They were well received. Cindy expressed a desire to have help or be relieved of the treasurer duties. She expressed that as the organization grows the accounting would exceed her capacities and professional guidance would become necessary. This was discussed and the common agreement was that we should pursue other avenues to administer the treasury of the CCH. Local alternatives will be pursued as well as other qualified mainland volunteers that would be willing to take the position. Cindy agreed to remain in position until the next annual meeting or an alternate person can take over the position. It was overwhelmingly agreed that Cindy has done a great job thus far and all were relieved that she is willing to remain the treasurer for the time being. Cindy has also done a great job of producing the CCH web site available at <http://www.hawaiicaves.org>

Fund Raising Report

Fund raising chair person Emily Davis reported on the fundraising activities for 2003. Emily has had very good response to her efforts which include 2 Grants from the NSS and substantial donation from private individuals. A \$5000.00 grant from the NSS allowed the CCH to purchase the lot 63 in the Kanohina Reserve. (The purchase of this lot was important as it overlies Kanohina Cave and just as important is access to the area of the cave. Lot 63 is in the Kula Kai Subdivision and has the only road to access the main area of the cave). A donation from Dick Blentz for \$5000.00 will be used to help purchase Lot's 42-43 in the Hawaiian Ranchos. Emily reported great success at the NSS Convention. The CCH stickers and lanyards were well received and generated \$937.00 in donations. Books donated by Fred Stone garnered over \$800.00 in proceeds at Convention also. These efforts at convention created a great visibility for the CCH. Emily reported a \$257.00 donation from the Diablo Grotto and a \$1000.00 grant to erect a sign kiosk at Ole's Puka. She also reports that the plea for the National Speleological Foundation grant was refused at this time because of their limited funds. She will try for this grant again in the future.

Emily is looking for suggestions for future fundraising possibilities. She is working on a tee-shirt to promote the cave and purchase of the lot's overlying the Cordwinder section of the Kanohina Cave.

Cindy Heazlit mentioned that she has set up the Paypal Internet donation site for credit card donations. This could lead to monthly revenues from this source.

Hazel Medville suggested that if the Kona Developers need cave survey they could be persuaded to donate the Conservancy. This has happened in the past and seems a viable potential.

Emily mentioned that the NSS News for February issue is dedicated to the Kanohina project as should bring the CCH to highlight. Speleobooks will have 150 issues of this publication available for presentation and donors. It was also suggested that the CCH advertise in the Cavers Digest on the Web and possibly do an international blanket e-mail.

Secretary's Report

Secretary Rick Elhard reports facilitation of the mail box and bank account as the local carrier of this business. Cindy has access to the CCH bank accounts via the web and most all of the major transfers are accomplished in this venue. Ric has garnered cashier checks for various escrow related processes and made check deposits received at the CCH mail box. A safe deposit box contains various papers and legal documents for the CCH. Cindy Don and Ric have access to this box via a key and palm print identification. Contents of the box are available in another document.

Ric reports that the election for 3 new board members was well responded to with over 60 ballots returned. Re-elected to the board were Cindy Heazlit, Mike Warner and Fred Stone. Fred is currently the chairperson of the Research and Education Committee. It was brought to the forum that Chris Frotton wishes to retire from the board of directors for the reason of lack of time because of work commitments. This will be addressed by the directors via e-mail communication as to whether to replace her position before another election of directors.

Agenda discussion

Ole's Puka.

Work on this project was scheduled to pursue the following weekend after the meeting. This NSS grant for 1000.00 will be used for materials and erection of an informational sign near the entrance of a cave in the Ocean View subdivision. This sign will be visible by an average of 100 persons passing the site per day. Fred Stone and Emily Davis will review text and photographs to be installed at the sign- post.

Progress report: The initial posts and headers were installed. The roof and sign- board will be installed in March and the text and pictures should be up by late spring 2004.

Lot #63

The loan to Amy and Arron Cox was repaid and the lot 63 is paid in full and owned by the CCH. The title of this property has a clouded deed because of an unresolved debt by the previous owner. The Owner/seller claims to have paid this debt but was unable to produce documentation. This led to a reduction of price for the property of \$1500.00. The board was satisfied to proceed and complete the transaction as the escrow process did not produce any persons attaching claim to the sale. The current status of this purchase is ownership of lot #63 in Kula Kai Estates by the CCH. This lot overlies 3 large cave passage ways and provides access to the sub-division to CCH members.

Lot's #42-43

The lots 42-43 are currently in escrow. Full report on status will be in the president's report. It was notes that the \$5000.00 donated by Dick Blentz and another \$1000.00 will make the first years mortgage on these properties.

Thom Engle pledged \$1000.00 towards the second year mortgage, Mike and Emily pledged another sum to be determined after their taxes are done. Ric and Rose pledged \$250.00 towards the second year mortgage. Fred stone said depending on his financial status he could possibly **loan** the CCH up to \$4000.00 if necessary to fulfill the second year commitment. A round of applause for the generous pledged contributions.

CCH Newsletter

Discussion regarding the preparation of a news letter for the CCH received the overwhelming need to get one published. Dale Pate, a cave manager at Carlsbad Cave, has offered to help with this process. To be included in this publication are the officer's reports, an article on Ole's Puka, fund raising report and other articles offered for publication. Discussion regarding publishing the newsletter in hard copy and e-mail will be determined with the help from Dale and formats he may use. It was determined that a newsletter is essential to keep the momentum of membership and donations.

Issue of Honorarium

A discussion regarding acknowledging major donor contributions was brought to the forum. It is determined that persons donating more than \$1000.00 should have a special recognition. Cindy mentioned that they are already acknowledged in the web site. The consensus is that a Certificate of Appreciation should be generated and sent to the major donors. Gifting of the Kanohina Preserve tee-shirt and an offering of a tour of the preserve were deemed appropriate as recognition of major contributions.

Insurance

The issue of insurance for the conservancy for the conservancy was discussed. It was determined that Officer liability was not necessary as the check and balance of the board of directors should eliminate any malfeasance of any officer or director.

Accident liability was discussed. The general consensus was that the Sportsman Law in Hawaii may protect the CCH from access liability. Posting hazardous conditions on properties is essential to relieve liability and it is agreed that any property held by the CCH should be posted as to potential dangers. Any access to the Kanohina System requires a signed waiver by participants.

It was discussed that liability can be shifted by splitting the title with another organization. It was also discussed that by accepting responsibility for access from land owners, it may be a tool to garner access and lease agreement. Nothing definite was determined regarding this subject and no committee was formed.

Committees

Several committees were established at the meeting.

Land acquisition

A land acquisition committee was formed to monitor the annual delinquent tax sale auction in Hawaii County. Land is auctioned off for delinquent taxes and fees in Hawaii County. New committee members are Russ and Lyn Brauher and Ole Fulks to monitor the Puna side properties. Ric Elhard will follow up on Ocean View properties.

Land access and lease....

Rose Herrera will work to establish a relationship in the Kanohina preserve as a local representative of the area. Mike Warner has already been involved as the reviewer of contracts and Don agreed to review any agreement that comes to the table. John Replogle agreed to be and advisor as he is the active Nature Conservancy representative and is very familiar with many of the local ranchers and lease- holders of property in the Kau area. A lease or access agreement for Kuka'iau Cave may be possible through contacts of Spike Werner. The Medvilles agreed to discuss possibilities of access and agreements with the Schwab Group regarding access to Hualalai Cave in North Kona. There are possibilities of agreements of access to caves on the University of Hawaii property in Kona also.

New treasurer

A committee was formed to seek a new treasurer. Rose and Ric will seek some one local that may be interested in fulfilling this position. Judy and Nevin Davis agreed to seek a potential treasurer from the caving community in their home area.

Mike Warner and Emily Davis brought to the forum the subject of wills and bequest. They mentioned that they were interested in bequeathing some or their remaining assets to the Cave Conservancy of Hawaii. It was mentioned that persons should consider the options of dispersion of their assets after they are gone

from a life of living and work . Leaving a legacy of perpetual conservation is a pretty nice way to go and god bless the rest

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was well received after over 5 hours of meeting. The Hawaii Speleological Survey meeting was pursued and a field trip to see some of the Kanohina Preserve was attended by several of the meeting participants.