

MINUTES
ALPENA WILDLIFE SANCTUARY BOARD
City Hall – April 21, 2016 – 4:00 p.m.

Present: Judy Kalmanek, Roger Witherbee, Vernie Nethercut, Tom Orth, Adam Poll, Terry Gougeon, Elizabeth Littler, Alice Holcomb, Christian Stevens

Guests and Resource people: Susie Austin

Absent: Melissa Doubek, Erin Riopelle, Jacqueline Walchek

Roger called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

A motion to approve the March 17, 2016 minutes was made by Judy, seconded by Elizabeth. Motion approved.

Updates – Adam

Adam is in the process of researching the history of the sanctuary boundaries.

Greg Sundin has met with the Huron Pines director. No report on the meeting yet.

Adam is in the process of ordering a bridge dedication sign. A schedule of the dedication festivities will follow.

Signs and Maps - Elizabeth

Elizabeth made some suggestions for Island Park signs, and or icons, such as:

- No biking
- Fragile habitat – stay on trail
- Be responsible – clean IT up
- Dog on leash
- No sledding

Currently beach grass is sheared off and soil is bare where sledding occurred. Elizabeth has a photo, which she agreed to share.

Tom suggested a dog mitt dispenser near the bridge and trashcan.

Another suggestion was to make one sign with Island Park Guidelines (condensed and positive) along with pictures or icons. The sign could be placed near the map sign on the Island. Adam said depending on the cost this could come out of the budget. Judy, Alice and Susan agreed to work on a sign design.

Thunder Bay River Center update – Judy

The 501.c.3 proposal should be reviewed and ready to submit by tomorrow (4/22/2016). The fundraising is moving along. Volunteers are needed for the all events. Katie Wolfe from the CFNEM has agreed to help out at the June 25 Science Day.

Judy reported on the membership drive. Betsy Willis has agreed to paint an oil painting from an egret photo. Allegra Printing will make 100 18 x 24 prints, which will be signed and numbered. The cost is \$1,000 for lifetime membership (includes a print). Charter members will also have their name displayed on a plaque that will be installed in the River Center. The original painting will go to the River Center. Judy passed out a sample donation slip.

A new website is being worked on with a new domain for the River Center.

Island Walk About – Terry and Elizabeth

Terry and Elizabeth did a walk through on the Island with Ron Worth. Ron advised if we want just a few select trees removed it would need to be done by an individual with a

tractor and chainsaw. A contractor would need to take all the Jack Pine to make it worth the trouble.

Volunteers would be needed to clear the brush and logs after a cut. The possibility of using high school students was discussed. If students volunteer, the cutting should be done first before students are allowed in to clear and clean it up.

Susie agreed to make a Google calendar that would be accessible to everyone with upcoming event dates such as, work bees, River Center events, River Rats, meetings, etc. Any dates members want on the calendar should be given to Alice.

A handout from the walk about is attached to the minutes with project ideas. (Attachment 1)

Pamphlet update – Tom

Tom passed out a proof of the text for the pamphlet. Board members were asked to review the text and send comments to Tom as soon as possible. (See Attachment 2)

Adam stated the map is not ready for inclusion in the pamphlet. It was suggested that the tree ID locations be added to the map.

Blue Water Trail – Roger

Some of the buoys have been moved due to freezing and heaving of water in the sanctuary. The pamphlet needs revisions. Roger stated it is no longer accurate.

Island Park Management Plan – Elizabeth

LANDSCAPING ISLAND PARK near the bridge.

The native grass seed and annual rye seed has been purchased.

The native wildflowers have been ordered and will be picked up early May and stored at Elizabeth's house until they are planted in late May. Heather Rawlings will pick them up from Designs By Nature in Laingsburg, MI

Elizabeth will pick up the native shrubs at the airport tomorrow and additional shrubs next Friday from Gaylord SCD.

Jennifer Muladore has arranged a training course on herbicide techniques for invasive species control for her crew and others to be held at Duck Park on May 2 at 1 pm. (May 6 is the rain date.) The program will include applying herbicide to the non-native grass planted on the island 2 years ago. Judy and I will attend and anyone interested in the techniques should also attend – injecting Japanese knotweed will be on the menu plus a chance for any questions you might have.

The planting of the wildflowers will take place in the afternoon of Fri, May 27. Gretchen Rae and her students will be on the island and will do the planting. Volunteers and tools will be needed.

Roundtable

Elizabeth reviewed the IPMP actions from 2015 and for 2016.

- We will continue to maintain trails by brushing and blocking where needed.
- Removal of Jack Pine and maintenance
- Signs for Education – Tree ID should fulfill this Action
- Friends Group – we are currently seeking community volunteers for work bees and posting a calendar of events
- Biodiversity – approval of plantings on Island

Roundtable corrections to minutes

- Elizabeth reviewed the IPMP Actions for 2015 and a list of new Actions for 2016 was made.

Island Park Maintenance Plan, Actions for 2016 are:

-Under the topic Education the Board selected the Action of making a sign that will have the guidelines on it and also, icons illustrating them (see above). (The Eagle Scout tree signage is a 2015 Action carried forward.)

-Under the topic of Trails, the Board selected the Action that unsanctioned trails will now be blocked by brush.

-Under Biodiversity, the Board selected the Action of planting of native shrubs. (Also, see, Landscape Island Park, below.)

-Under Volunteers, A group of volunteers, training and work bees was established in 2015 and will continue. Phoning the volunteer as well as emailing them would be a new Action under Volunteers for 2016.

Christian will round up football players if we request for Jack Pine cleanup and haul away.

Adam asked how much bark we would like to order. Roger asked for one big city dump truck load.

The question was asked whether the “couch” had been removed from the sanctuary. We need to check with Erin on this.

Susie is glad to help with the calendar. The board thanked her for interest in the sanctuary and looks forward to working with her in the future.

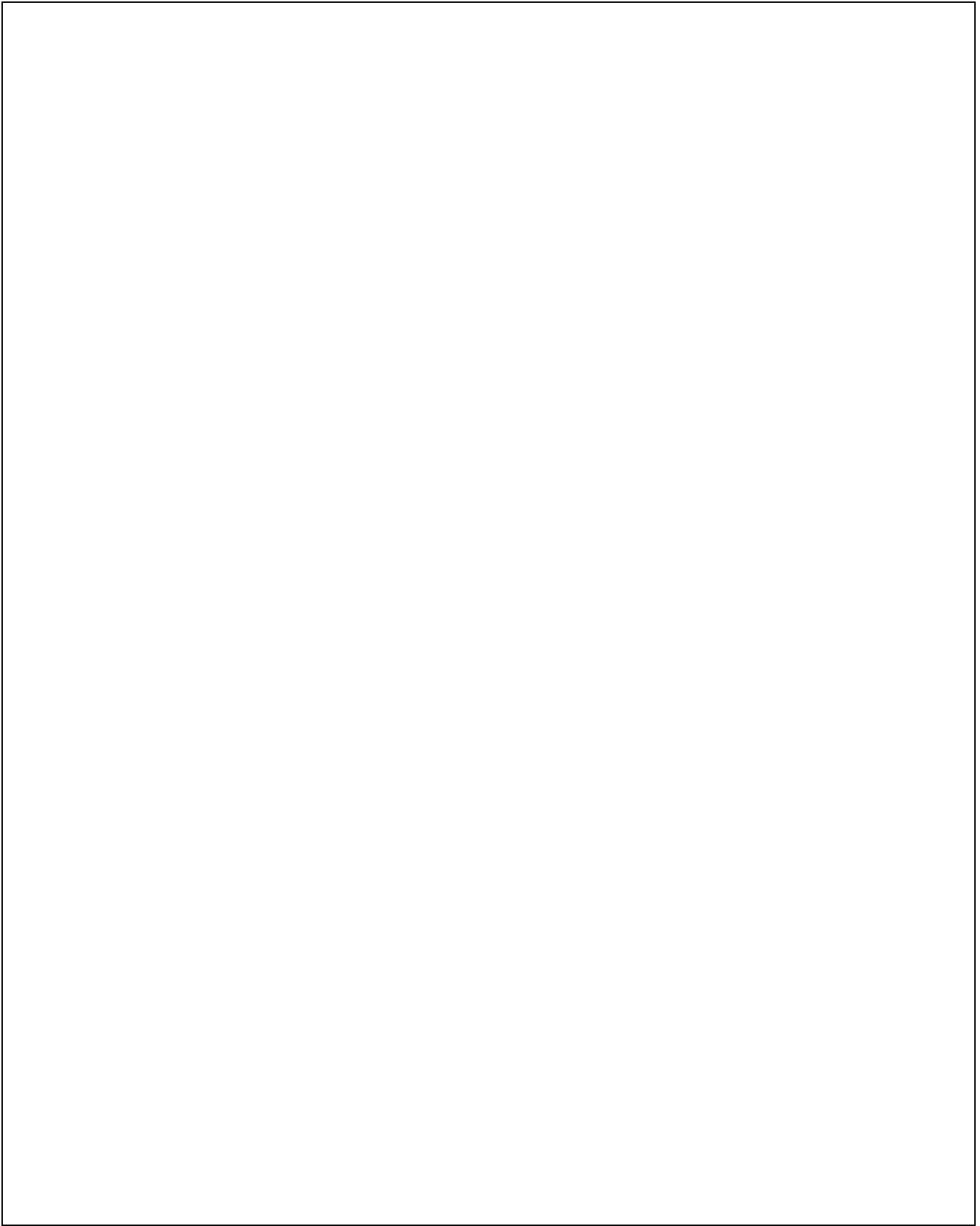
Alice had previously sent the board the website and information regarding potential 2016 Artist in Resident, Mick Grochowski. Judy made a motion, seconded by Elizabeth that we approve Mick for the 2016 artist. Motion approved. Alice will contact Mick and send a contract agreement. The tentative dates for the residency are August 17 – September 21.

Roger noted there has been some vandalism to the boat launch. It is still functional. The railing parts may need to be replaced.

The next regular board meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, May 19 at 4:00 p.m.** at City Hall. The meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Alice Holcomb, Secretary

Attachment 1 – IP Maintenance



Attachment 2 – Pamphlet proof (text only)

