

MINUTES
ALPENA WILDLIFE SANCTUARY BOARD
July 21, 2016
City Hall, 4:00pm

Present: Roger Witherbee, Vernie Nethercut, Tom Orth, Adam Poll, Terry Gougeon, Elizabeth Littler, Melissa Doubek, Jackie Walchek, Christian Stevens, Susie Austin, Karen Enterline

Absent: Erin Riopelle, Judy Kalmanek

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

A motion to approve the June 16, 2016 minutes was made by Vernie, seconded by Melissa. Motion approved.

Updates - Adam

Adam reported that Vicki, who previously updated the WSB's website has retired. Any updates, or changes needed to the website may be delayed while the city looks for a replacement.

Vernie is going to prepare a document for city council regarding the Sanctuary boarders.

Eagle Scout Project - Elizabeth, Melissa, & Karen

Elizabeth reported that a committee has been formed to help James Shultz complete his Eagle Scout project of tree identification signs on the island. James has been working with the committee to correct grammatical errors/technical writing and take more accurate photos of the trees for the signs.

Per the new description of the Scout Project, James will secure funding and organize the project, including installation. The committee will make sure that the writing and photos on the informational signs are accurate and fit for public display.

Thunder Bay River Center Updates - Susie & Roger

The River Center website is up and running. The web address is www.rivercenteralpena.com. There is also a facebook page for the friends group: <https://www.facebook.com/TBRCfriends>. Science in the Sanctuary was a big hit. There were approximately 100 children that attended throughout the day. It was a busy weekend and there were a lot of activities going on in town, but all that attended gave positive feedback. The next event the "Walk with the Animals" will be postponed due to the retirement of the theater teacher.

Volunteers-Vernie

The need for a master list of volunteers was addressed to help with volunteer projects. Vernie suggested that within our master list we could match volunteers with maintenance projects as needed.

Melissa reported that the Alpena High School FIRST Robotics team would love to “adopt the island” to help with maintenance.

Roger suggested that we refer to the list of ongoing maintenance plans to get an idea of what still needs to be done on the island for the season.

Pamphlet Update - Tom

The text in the pamphlets has been edited and is now complete. Tom asked if anyone would like to assist in picking out photographs for the pamphlet. Adam and Susie agreed to assist. Roger also volunteered to assist as needed.

Designated Trails - Roger

Barking the trails will continue as needed and more bark was to be delivered Friday, July 22nd.

Melissa thought the FIRST Robotics team could take care of the trail barking.

Elizabeth asked for suggestions on how to keep people on marked trails and offered putting up signs or brush to block off non-trails.

Canoe/kayak rental - Roger

Roger asked if the Blue Herron Water Trail was originally maintained by the WSB. Vernie confirmed that it was originally maintained by the WSB.

Melissa reported that some of the buoys are not numbered any more and #11 has moved and is now out of place.

There was a discussion on how #11 could be relocated and if it would be easier to re-do the trail map or move the buoy.

Roger asked the board to think about a maintenance plan for the Blue Herron Water Trail.

Weed pull - Elizabeth

There were about 23 volunteers at the annual weed pull. They were very successful and gathered 6 full trash bags of weeds. The annual weed pulls are proving successful in managing the weeds as the weeds seemed fewer and harder to locate than last year. The event was covered by WBKB.

Round Table

Elizabeth – The contract for the landscaping project with Fish and Wildlife is complete

Jackie – She will continue to brainstorm about positive ways to keep hikers on the trails.

Susie – She will continue to keep in contact with Omega Electric about the signs for the island.

Adam – The legislative tour came through Alpena last week and they stopped by the island. Roger and Susie talked to them about the Wildlife Sanctuary and the River Center.

Verinie – We will send out updates to the “Friends of the River Center” as some of them may be interested in helping with maintenance of the island.

Melissa – Update on River Rats: River Rats was a huge success. This was the last program that Alice will do but Courtney Kent has expressed interest in helping with River Rats next year. Courtney previously worked for the DNR and currently is an elementary school aide. Susan Nielson is also very interested in helping out with River Rats. Both women would have experience in this type of science programming and would be great assets to the program.

Roger – Update on Artist in Residence program: The new Artist in Residence will be here around the 16th. There will be a potluck Welcome party at the Witherbee Residence, 15660 Long Lake Hwy on August 18th 4:30/5pm. All WSB members are encouraged to attend. Please e-mail roger and cc the group to share what you will bring and how many people will be attending.

Roger also acknowledged the Garden Club’s efforts on the island and all agreed that they are doing a fantastic job.

Roger encouraged everyone to think about events to add to a newsletter to be sent out in the future.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00pm

Respectfully submitted,
Susie Austin