

MINUTES
ALPENA WILDLIFE SANCTUARY BOARD
City Hall – September 17, 2015 – 4:00 p.m.

Present: Tom Orth, Alice Holcomb, Judy Kalmanek, Roger Witherbee, Elizabeth Littler, Vernie Netherut, Terry Gougeon, Adam Poll
Guests and Resource people: Karen Enterline

Roger called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Minutes from the August 20 meeting were approved with the following changes: Change the name Schultz to Shultz.

Updates – Adam

The Rotary Club is helping fund new signage in cooperation with NEMCOG for Duck Park. The signage will match the signage that NEMCOG is trying to universalize throughout northeast and all of northern Michigan. Adam passed out pictures of different sized sample signage. When more details are known a vote will be taken on the signage.

Island Management Plan - Elizabeth

Elizabeth reported on the buckthorn at Duck Park. Elizabeth identified the buckthorn previously, but the city did not get to it and will not have time to cut it this year. Mike Kendziorski will cut it down and Elizabeth has recruited the Youth Volunteer Corp from the Jr. High to drag the branches on Monday, Oct. 5 at 3:00. The city will collect the piled branches for disposal.

The shed on the Island has been painted.

The board discussed the trail system on the Island and what trails are considered main trails, secondary trails, and off limits. It was suggested the updated Island Park pamphlet would need a good trail map for visitors to take on the Island.

Elizabeth is looking for bolt cutters for the rusty lock on the pamphlet kiosk at Duck Park.

Work Bees – Terry and Elizabeth

Terry posed the question of who is in charge of maintenance at Duck Park, the City or the Wildlife Sanctuary Board? Roger responded that the board responsibility is the Island and surrounding sanctuary. The City heads the maintenance at Duck Park.

Terry has notified the volunteer group regarding the work bee scheduled for Saturday, October 17. So far he has only heard from one volunteer.

Elizabeth will contact Deb Hautau at ACC regarding the Autumn Olive and see if she is scheduling any labs on the Island.

Artist in Residence Program update – Alice

Alice informed the board that Karen Magness Eubanks notified her and Roger that she is no longer able to work on the Artist in Residence program for us. Alice has received and taken the artwork, "Almost Still" by Gail Panske to the frame shop and asked the board to vote for the funding. The cost is \$181.62. Tom made a motion to proceed with the framing at the cost of \$181.62, Judy seconded. Motion carried. Alice will e-mail all the prior artists as soon as she can get the contact information from Karen for the information needed on the plexi-glass signs at the library. Vernie suggested we use the

contract language when contacting the artists. Alice will go over the contract and bring an updated version to the next meeting for review.

Media coverage – Vernie and Alice

The first of three publicity pictures and article for the news media was featured in a recent Alpena News. The message was for visitors to stay on the main trails and the abundance of wildlife and plant growth since it has been shut off during bridge building.

Terry mentioned that he recently witnessed a bicycle crossing the bridge to ride on the Island. The board agreed the sign for 'foot traffic only' should be reinstated until the new signage is ready. Also a reminder about leashing dogs and a dog bag stand.

Invasive update – Judy and Elizabeth

Huron Pines sponsored a frogbit pull on September 3. A large quantity was removed, although there is still a lot left. Jennifer Mulledore from Huron Pines plans to have a meeting in the winter to develop a plan for controlling invasives in the sanctuary. We are in agreement that the narrow leaf cattail needs to be removed when it dies back in the fall in order to provide access to the frogbit for additional removal.

Steering Committee update – Judy

The board has received a copy of the steering committee minutes in an e-mail Judy sent out today. Judy highlighted what was discussed at their meeting.

Pamphlet updates

Roger passed out the current pamphlets that we have for the sanctuary. Tom stated that each pamphlet should have a purpose, and that visitors want to know what you can do in the sanctuary. Erin and Tom are working on an overall pamphlet. Vernie suggested we might want to include the Island Guidelines in the pamphlet.

Roundtable

Roger has contacted Joy from Huron Pines to come and talk to the board about reptiles and amphibians on the Island so we have a better understanding of what can be done to help the populations. She will be presenting at our November meeting.

Tom recently flew over the sanctuary and took photos. The algae blooms in the sanctuary were very defined!

Terry would like to make sure that other chair people doing projects on the Island go through him so he can help coordinate projects and dates for work.

Elizabeth stated that the cleared area on the Island side of the bridge has been planted with non-native grasses, which means ongoing maintenance would have to be done. Elizabeth would like to have this dug and changed to native grass. Roger suggested making a plan before planting anything. Heather from Fish and Wildlife, Elizabeth, and the Garden Club will work on the planting plan.

The bench on the Island just after the bridge is missing since the construction took place. Judy is checking with Mike K. to see if he has any information about it.

Judy shared the book, Interpretive Centers: The History, Design and Development of Nature and Visitor Centers, by Michael P. Gross and Ronald Zimmerman with the board, and said she has purchased a copy for each of the steering committee members. According to Mac West it is the best resource book on Interpretive Centers.

Judy made a motion to adjourn, Vernie seconded. Motion carried.

The next regular board meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, October 15, 2015 at 4:00 p.m.** at City Hall. The meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Alice Holcomb, Secretary

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