

Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary Board Minutes
July 18, 2019
Alpena City Hall

Members Present: Terry Gougeon, Karen Enterline, Vernie Nethercut, Roger Witherbee, Tom Orth, Susie Austin, Elizabeth Littler, Boris Gerber, Judy Kalmanek

Staff: Adam Poll

Resource: Catherine Stedman,

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Terry Gougeon at 4:01p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes of June 20th

Upon a motion made by Vernie, seconded by Roger and carried, the minutes of June 20, 2019 were approved as submitted.

3. Addition to the Agenda

One item: Pamphlets was added to the agenda to follow agenda item #5.
The agenda was accepted as amended.

4. City Update

Adam said that the second load of bark was delivered. However, Terry replied that the bark was delivered to the wrong area and has had to be moved by wheelbarrow from near the butterfly garden to the trail site. There is still quite a pile remaining to be moved. Adam will ensure that the next load will be delivered to the O.B. Eustis Lookout area.

5. River Center Update

The Financial Feasibility study is nearing completion and the first two invoices have been paid. The final report should be available by early August.

After a request was made to the Meijer Foundation through the local store manager, Warren Richter, and the regional marketing director, Meijer Foundation is awarding the Thunder Bay River Center a grant of \$50,000.

5.1. Pamphlets

There was discussion on the Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary brochures. Elizabeth has been having some printed at City Hall to supply the rack at Duck Park. Judy still has about 2/3 of a box which she will divide between Vernie and Elizabeth who will distribute them to CVB, Museum, NOAA, and other places. Boris will make sure some go to the library.

6. Frogbit Update

Shane Lishawa and his crew visited the Wildlife Sanctuary on July 8th. Terry, Tom, Roger and Judy met with them and described both the narrow leaf cattail and the frogbit situation and our on-going work to control it. A driving tour around the Sanctuary gave the crew a better look at the area followed by an inspection via kayak. Parts of the crew have revisited several times

subsequent to that date to map the area using a drone. They will be mapping and planning how and which areas of the sanctuary will be harvested of cattails in summer 2020.

Tom will plan dates for frogbit removal this year in the smaller areas on the west side and some on the east side of the Sanctuary. He will send out an email with the dates, times and locations with a request for volunteer help.

7. Island Park Management

As mentioned above, there is about ½ load of bark left after Terry, his brothers and some of the YVC youth bark some of the trails.

There are several more trees which have fallen and need to be cut. Other trees need to be trimmed back from hanging over the trails. Roger agreed to help Terry do the needed cutting/trimming. Meanwhile, Susie will have the YVC volunteers who are helping with River Rats use loppers to trim the smaller overhanging branches.

The 9 rolls of fencing for the erosion restoration area have arrived at Home Depot and, together with the posts, need to be picked up and placed in the storage shed until they can be installed. Terry will need help to haul the fencing and posts to the shed. He'll send out an email when he's ready to do this.

Some of the buoys on the Blue Heron Water Trail have moved and need to be realigned. Judy will email Tom the information on the location for the buoys. He'll talk with the DNR crew, who will be on the river again soon, and see if they can re-position the buoys.

The spotted knapweed pull will be August 8th from 9:00 until 11:00 a.m. Elizabeth has a poster and information which she'll publicize.

8. Additional Remarks

Boris suggested that we participate with the *Alpena News* calendar project by submitting our best photos of the Wildlife Sanctuary.

Susie reported on River Rats. The sessions have been full (30 registered participants and caregivers) each time. She has held separate sessions for the Salvation Army Day Care group of about 20 youth. Susie's YVC volunteers and Catherine have been invaluable aides. The YVC have hauled needed items and assisted with take down and clean up. Science in the Sanctuary will be held on August 7th this year from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Susie expects to have about 10 stations. She will email a copy of the flyer to the board, put it on Facebook and distribute posters around town for the event. Judy will open the gates that day and ensure that Susie has the needed prizes.

Catherine has obtained estimates for 12"x18" signs for the erosion site of \$25 each for a total of \$100 for the four signs. The plan is to install the signs on the fence itself. A motion was made by Judy, seconded by Susie and carried for Catherine to purchase the signs.

Elizabeth distributed samples of simple bike racks which could be made locally and placed near the bridge entrance. The ROMEO rack is being used for the rental bikes.

Judy reported that Darby Hinkley interviewed her and others for a *Lifestyles* article on wildflowers of Northeast Michigan. Judy sent Darby the new wildflower brochure that Elizabeth and Betsy Hale created. Board members each received a printed copy of the brochure.

Terry reminded everyone that the opening pot luck reception for this year's artist-in-residence, Richard Jordan, will be held at Terry and Judy Gougeon's home on August 22nd beginning at 5:00 p.m. Terry will send out an email so board members can RSVP and indicate what dish they

will bring.

9. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary Board will be held on August 15th in City Hall at 4:00 p.m.

10. Adjourn

Judy motioned, seconded by Elizabeth and carried that the meeting be adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Minutes taken and submitted by
Judy Kalmanek, Secretary
Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary Board