

Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary Board Minutes October 18, 2017

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

Resource Members: Katherine Stedman

I. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Roger Witherbee at 3:48 p.m. with all members present.

An addition was made to the agenda by Vernie concerning a bit of Island Park history. She distributed copies of an article from the Alpena News from June 8, 1985 when the city took over ownership of Island Park from the Alpena Sportsman's Club.

II. A motion was made by Susie Austin, seconded by Boris Gerber that the minutes from September 21, 2017 be approved. The motion carried.

III. Updates from Adam:

Adam reported that he has six "No Wake" signs now on hand. The city will install them at identified locations on the river.

The new sculpture in Duck Park has been installed and was dedicated on October 13th.

In investigating the identification of the Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary on various maps (ranging from 1950 to 1998), Adam discovered various identifications: 9th Street Pond, the River, Lake Besser. He will try to locate the map's publishers and give them updated information.

IV. Our Mission

Vernie and Elizabeth had started a discussion on the mission of the Wildlife Sanctuary Board since it is obvious that the role of the board has expanded since its inception in the 1980's.

Vernie referred to the handout from the Alpena News that she distributed earlier. In the earlier days only Island Park was the concern of the board. Sytek was sometimes considered.

However, over the years the role has expanded to include the entire sanctuary, but we don't have the vision and mission statements to support it.

Discussion revolved around the fact that the sanctuary boundaries are to the water's edge. The sanctuary is the water and the islands within the waters. The adjoining parks, Duck Park, Sytek Park, Washington Park, are not our concerns—they are the city's responsibility. It was suggested that our role, is to promote/educate sanctuary users that the sanctuary is theirs to enjoy, but with that comes a responsibility to care for the resource and use it in accord with the rules and regulations to protect it.

It was agreed that prior to the next meeting of the board, Judy will draft an update of the mission (purpose) of the Wildlife Sanctuary Board, send the draft to the members and all will be prepared to act on the update at the December 7th meeting of the board. The draft will be sent together with the mission statement from the minutes of 2014 or 2015 where the mission is defined.

V. Website Update

Judy reported that Amber Stokes, River Center volunteer, has agreed to take on the responsibility of the website. She has linked the Thunder Bay River Center website with the Reel Fun Fishing

Tournament site already and now has a picture of the River Center with an arrow button so that the promotional video can be viewed. She will ensure that all are linked to the city website and to the Facebook pages.

VII. HP Invasives Meeting

Huron Pines is holding the annual Cooperative Weed Management Association meeting in Gaylord on November 7th. Judy is registered for the meeting and Elizabeth, Katherine and Karen will try to go with her. The meeting is at Jay's Sporting Goods from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Our group will attend the morning session.

VIII. Round Table

Susie has added this coming Saturday (10-21-2017) autumn olive weed pull to the Facebook page. Hopefully, this will draw a few more volunteers to help with the project.

Tom announced that there will be a meeting to discuss Michigan school funding at Grace Lutheran Church on November 2nd.

Vernie stated that the Lion's Club is interested in helping with the canoe/kayak storage for Duck Park. Adam said the city would like to see the storage added, but it is not a priority for funding. If it goes forward, city council will need to give approval for it.

By consensus, the next meeting will be a joint November-December meeting and be held on December 7th at 4:00 p.m. in City Hall council chambers.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

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