

Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary Board Minutes December 6, 2017

Members Present: Roger Witherbee, Vernie Nethercut, Tom Orth, Adam Poll, Susie Austin, Boris Gerber, Terry Gougeon, Judy Kalmanek,

Members Absent: Elizabeth Littler, Karen Enterline, Christian Stevens

I. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Chair Roger Witherbee at 4:01 pm.
There were no additions to the agenda.

II. Approval of Minutes:

Upon a motion made by Terry, seconded by Susie, the minutes from October 18, 2017 were approved.

III. Updates:

Adam reported that the Christmas decorations at Duck Park and Island Bridge are up. The city is applying for a Coastal Zone Management grant on behalf of NOAA. The Thunder Bay River Watershed Council recently dissolved and gave \$600 to the AWS Board toward the cost of signage for the river edge setback demonstration plot at Duck Park.

IV. Island Park Maintenance:

Terry described the list of maintenance projects that were done in 2017. He noted that most of the proposed projects were completed. These included:

- \$ trail and stairway cleanup (May 13)
- \$ trail barking (June 11) by Christian Stevens and the Robotics Team
- \$ removal of old tree markers—Terry dug one; some are in concrete. This will occur in spring 2018. A suggestion was made to just cut them off at or below ground level.
- \$ refurbish the birdhouses (March). Terry did this himself.
- \$ block the cross through trail. This was done with brush (2016) and subsequently a sign (not a trail) was installed at both ends (July 5). It seems to be working.
- \$ spotted knapweed pull(August 10)
- \$ autumn olive pull (October 21)
- \$ touch up paint on the shed. Terry noted that the shed is defaced with graffiti on three sides. It will need work in 2018.
- \$ re-installed the new tree identification signs with heavier bases and fastenings. (August 25) by Chris Stevens and Terry.

Boris had noticed a dead tree fallen across the river edge trail by Chisholm Street. Roger will bring his chain saw and cut it.

V. Website Update

Judy reported that Susie is no longer doing the website. Amber Stokes, who is a member of the TBRC Marketing Committee, has taken over both websites: Reel Fun, TBRC.org, and the corresponding FaceBook pages. That way she can update them all at the same time since she has

them linked.

VI. Revision of Mission/Vision

Consensus was that the statements done in 2015 with the Island Management Plan were still pretty accurate. There were a couple of suggested changes. Judy will draft the changes and send them out for board review. They can be adopted at the January 2018 meeting.

VII. Election of Officers

Roger had asked Vernie and Elizabeth to serve as a nominating committee. Terry Gougeon was nominated for president and Judy Kalmanek for secretary. Both accepted their nominations. A motion was made by Vernie, seconded by Boris that the two nominees be elected to serve as officers. The motion carried.

VIII. Round Table

Giving Tuesday netted the River Center fund \$2,960 which was \$365 less than last year. TBRC was still in the top 25 at #18. There was a much more vigorous online campaign by a number of organizations this year. The posters and post card campaigns were not effective. It was noted that there were just a huge number of email blasts by numerous organizations. Perhaps we need to better target our emails next year. Brian Bartosh has a program and plan for doing this.

Elizabeth is having her daughter make sketches that can be used for the riparian buffer sign. Terry noted that the size of the sign is 2' x 3' and Elizabeth has the wording completed.

Adam asked Judy to pick up some return envelopes from the recent year-end appeal letter sent out by TBRC Marketing.

A question was raised about student representation on the AWS Board. Christian is still interested and Roger agreed to contact Melissa Doubek for an additional representative.

TBRC is making progress. An application is being prepared for a Coastal Zone Management grant. The Reel Fun and Marketing committees are moving ahead with the Festivus/Reel Fun Tournament. This year Festivus will be on February 23, 2018 followed the next day by Reel Fun.

IX. Next Meeting

January 18, 2018 (third Thursday of the month)

The meeting was adjourned at 4:36 pm

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