

Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary Board Minutes June 21, 2018

Members Present: Vernie Nethercut, Tom Orth, Karen Enterline, Adam Poll, Boris Gerber, Terry Gougeon, Elizabeth Littler, Judy Kalmanek

Members Absent: Roger Witherbee, Susie Austin

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:58 p.m. by Chair Terry Gougeon.

II. Approval of Minutes from May 24, 2018

Motioned by Tom Orth, seconded by Judy Kalmanek and carried that the minutes of May 24, 2018 be approved.

III. Additions to the Agenda

The agenda was accepted as presented.

However, Vernie had asked previously that we discuss what activities are encouraged on Island Park and in the sanctuary. To that end, it was suggested that we look at the Island map and determine what trails are significant and propose how to block non-trails. It was agreed that this topic will be on the July agenda. As part of this agenda item, Vernie asked that all the board members look at the large sign on the Island so that we can discuss whether or not to remove it (given there is historical information on it).

IV. City Update

Adam had discussed with the city DPW about the old couch, etc. within the sanctuary. DPW says it can be removed.

Concerning the “camp” photos that were shared with the board prior to the meeting, Adam stated that DPW’s policy is to remove anything that was not officially placed in any park. That includes anything left in a park after dark. It was suggested that the non-emergency city police number could be contacted in future if other “camps” are discovered.

The board is still concerned about the buoys being out of their locations on the Blue Heron Water Trail. Melissa Doubek and students have used the water trail map and marked the location coordinates for the buoys. Judy will send a copy of the coordinates to Terry and Tom. Tom will contact Nathan Engstrom of the Boat House to see if there is a way he can help with a boat to move the buoys.

Adam will have another load of bark delivered for barking the trails.

The no-wake signs have not yet been placed. DPW is checking with the Alpena Road Commission and MDOT about placing signs on the US-23 (Chisholm Street) bridge and on the Bagley Street Bridge by Sytek Park. DPW doesn’t like the proposed placement of signs at the Washington Street Park. Adam will photograph some alternative sites in that area and email the photos to the board for approval. Meanwhile, Adam will instruct DPW to go ahead with placing the no-wake signs at the launches.

V. Thunder Bay River Center (TBRC) Update

Judy reported that the architect, Bruce Johnson, made a site visit from June 11-13th. Much was accomplished during these three days. Bruce interviewed community members with expertise on various areas of TBRC (like, retail store, kitchen, office spaces) to gather detailed information on each area's specific needs. During this time, Bruce met with Huron Engineering; Dan Kibbe (Huron Engineering) arranged for the soil boring to be done while Bruce was here. The site is clean. DPW helped by mowing the area of the TBRC. Huron Engineering staked the building outlines and will return and further mark the areas. Plans are for the Marketing Committee to further mark the site with strings and to have a new sign printed with the marketing logo and rendering of the building to replace the existing sign.

VI. Old Business

Habitat Study Area: Tom showed a Google-Earth photo of the proposed study site. He has contacted Ron Worth at the high school to learn of his interest and input. Catherine Steadman reported to Karen that CMU does not have a student in need of such a project right now. We don't actually need an intern to collect data yet. Tom will take photos as the project begins and progresses. This will provide some documentation.

Activity Signs: No report since Susie was not present.

VII. Island Park Maintenance

The HS Robotics team spread 7.5 yards of bark in 1.5 hours to cover a good portion of the main trail. Terry and Christian removed the tire swing and part of the rope; the remainder of the rope was subsequently removed by an unknown someone. The YVC painted the storage shed. They left the signature side alone as well as the sides with the plant stencils. Another completed task was painting the railings at the West Dock to cover the graffiti and blue paint there. The rails are now the usual brown.

There is still concern about the opening at the West Dock where people are creating their own trail. Boris and Terry will put up a post on the left side with a "not a trail" sign on it.

VIII. Further Remarks

The Friends of the Lake Huron Watershed (F&W Friends group) obtained 182 milkweed plants from Monarch Watch. There are three flats of 50 each which are for upland planting and another 32 plants for wetland planting. The group would like to have them planted in the wildlife sanctuary. It was agreed that the plants will be welcome around the Sanctuary (possibly in the area now being sprayed for cattails. Once the cattail spraying is completed the wetland milkweed could be planted there and the remainder on the Island, Duck Park. Judy will contact the Friends group who are donating the plants and see if some of them can volunteer to help plant.

Boris needs a map of the watershed for his station at Science in the Sanctuary Day. Judy will email him a couple of maps (done) and Adam will have a large map printed from the City Engineering Department's plotter.

Tom noted that the first clean up of the water around Washington Park was a success. The group spent about 2 hours working in the evening. Tom will make a schedule for cleaning various areas where trash accumulates in the water. The work will take place every other week. It was

agreed that each area will need to be done only once a year. Elizabeth and Terry have cleaned up the set-back site and planted a cover crop on it for this year. There are about 18 garden club members who come on Wednesdays to maintain the gardens around the bridge and Duck Park

It was noted that several specially trained DPW workers are helping with goose control by destroying the eggs in the spring. The workers report back to the DNR on their activity.

IX. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary Board will be at 4:00 p.m. on July 19, 2018, in council chambers of City Hall.

X. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn made by Vernie, seconded by Karen and carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:58 p.m.

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