

MINUTES
ALPENA WILDLIFE SANCTUARY BOARD
City Hall – January 15, 2015 – 4:00 p.m.

Present: Roger Witherbee, Judy Kalmanek, Adam Poll, Erin Riopelle, Vernie Nethercut, Alice Holcomb, Terry Gougeon, Tom Orth, and Jody Gauden

Roger called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Judy made a motion to approve the December minutes, Erin seconded. Motion carried.

Updates – Adam

Adam informed the board that the grant for the feasibility study has been submitted.

There will be a 5K Run at Duck Park in February. Runners will not be using the Island.

Island Management Plan Update (IMP) – Vernie

Vernie led a discussion on the uses of the Island that may need attention due to the fragile environment and overuse. The board came up with the following list:

1. Search Dog Training
2. Sledding, snowboarding, *snowshoeing, cross country skiing (the board determined that snowshoeing and cross country skiing would be done on the trails and therefore not be an issue)*
3. Boot Camp and large group exercise

Alternative sites for the above could be Norway Ridge or the ACC wild acreage.

The board discussed the need to talk further with a contact person for Search Dog Training and boot camps. Adam will check with City personnel for a contact for dog training and Vernie agreed to contact Trina Gray of Bay Athletic regarding boot camps. Suggested actions to be taken to deter sledding and snowboarding might be posted signs (“erosion area”, “stay on trails”, pictorial signs of damaged area vs. natural area), and also the addition of large brush piles or tree plantings.

The board was asked to help prioritize an action plan for the IMP. Board members gave their two top priorities and then a list was made. The list is as follows:

- #1 – Maintain trails and define (includes brushing/blocking trails) – Elizabeth will chair this action
- #2 – Removal of Jack Pine or maintenance – Terry will chair this action
- #2 – Signs for education – Roger and Tom will chair this action
- #3 – Education in general
- #3 – Start a Friends Group
- #4 – Biodiversity – Huron Pines will chair this action

Terry updated the board on possible Jack Pine remedies. Terry may have a lead on someone who would help. This individual wants almost all of the Jack Pine to make it profitable to take the wood to a mill in Escanaba. Terry also has another individual

interested in taking only some of the live trees for his own use. Alice read Ben Nowakowski's version of how to deal with the aging Jack Pines to the board. Roger suggested the partial cut of live trees (with help we would mark the trees that can be taken), then also using an herbicide on the buckthorn and planting white pine as a replacement.

Adam stated that for next months meeting he would have the grammar and wording cleaned up in the IMP.

Board opening – Roger

Roger stated that there is an opening that needs to be filled on our board. Roger also suggested a policy on absences from board meetings. This will be on next month's agenda.

Reel Fun/Festivus update – Erin and Judy

There are 90 signs up in the area promoting the Reel Fun Tournament. Judy brought Festivus signs to be distributed by board members. Erin reported that the food for the Festivus is all set and includes a cheesecake bar. Erin requested that board members bring and donate cookies.

Judy reported that 370 newsletters are being mailed and 120 are being e-mailed.

Roger stated that \$2,000 of the Wildlife Sanctuary budget from last year for invasive species management has been rolled over to the current year budget. Huron Pines will be helping with management.

The next regular board meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, February 19, 2015 at 4:00 p.m.** at City Hall. The meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Alice Holcomb, Secretary