

MINUTES
ALPENA WILDLIFE SANCTUARY BOARD
City Hall – June 18, 2015 – 4:00 p.m.

Present: Tom Orth, Erin Riopelle, Alice Holcomb, Judy Kalmanek, Roger Witherbee, Melissa Doubek, Elizabeth Littler, Vernie Netherut, Terry Gougeon

Absent: Adam Poll

Guests and Resource people: Karen Enterline, Robert Weinkauf, Meagen Lane, Cindy Kus

Roger called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. The minutes from the May meeting were approved after Alice read corrections submitted by Elizabeth. Judy made the motion to approve the minutes as corrected, Melissa seconded. Motion carried.

Island Management Plan - Elizabeth

Robert (Bob) Weinkauf was introduced to the board and guests. Bob planted the Burr Oak trees on the Island. Bob was not aware that there existed a Wildlife Sanctuary Board that oversaw what takes place on the Island. Bob is willing to help us transplant the trees. It was discussed and decided that a workday in the fall would be more appropriate for transplanting them. In the meantime we need to decide where we want them.

Elizabeth updated the board on the Volunteer Orientation that took place at Duck and Island Park on Saturday, June 13. Roger gave an overview of the River Center goals, Alice the River Rats, and Elizabeth the Management Plan (Mission, Vision, and Guidelines). Elizabeth also went over a list of proposed projects for the Island. An Island tour was taken pointing out the stairways, trails, and shed. The volunteers suggested setting aside a few Saturdays for work projects, publicizing on Facebook, and asking Erin about boating to the Island for a workday until the bridge is done. Terry was encouraged and agreed to be the “go-to” person for planning and coordinating volunteer workdays. Bob asked about whether we had a forestry plan for the Island.

Web Page and Facebook updates - Erin

Erin reported that the Facebook page is up and running. She has posted some pictures and can also advertise events. Vernie suggested that her AWS news releases be e-mailed to Erin for the Facebook page.

Further discussion took place regarding the AWS signage around the Sanctuary. Another location (besides the Chisholm St. bi-path area and Sytek Park area) would be the 11th Avenue boat launch. Erin is working with an APS art instructor for sign design. The sanctuary logo is the Great Blue Heron.

River Rats update – Melissa and Alice

River Rats will be meeting on Wed. June 24 at the Alpena Public Schools Nature Area. Judy sent an e-mail to previous participants, Erin has posted the event on Facebook, the Alpena News did an article and it is being featured for two consecutive weeks on the newspaper’s community calendar. Melissa stated that many of our student volunteers are not available on this date and we may be short on help. Erin offered her new summer recruit and Judy plans on helping with sign-in.

AWS pamphlet – Roger

Roger would like to get the boards input on a pamphlet promoting the entire sanctuary, not just Island Park. The purpose would be for educating the community and visitors. Information could include the Wildlife Sanctuary Board, the sanctuary guidelines, and size. Erin agreed to begin working on it.

Artist in Residence program (July 12-July 26)

Andrew Redington, the 2015 Artist in Residence, will be in Alpena from July 12-July 26. Roger will host a potluck for Andrew. Roger suggested having it on July 16, in lieu of our regular meeting. Roger will e-mail the board with final plans and what to bring. Alice gave an overview of the residency program for our meeting guests.

Feasibility Study/ grant update – Judy

The Feasibility Study is in the final stages. Mac will be in Michigan during the beginning of July. He will be doing comparison studies at Mitchell State Park in Cadillac, and the Boardman Center in Traverse City. The Boardman Center is in the process of an ANCA study. Mac might also visit the nature center in Petoskey. A draft of the study will be available in late August. Judy asked that we be thinking about how we want the Feasibility Study presented, such as, a public meeting at the library.

Roundtable

Erin will be hosting an AWS clean up day for both water sections and along the bi-path. A date has not been set. Erin will have a new employee Elijah? for the summer months. Her open hours are Wed.-Sunday from 10-6. There are plans to have a Wildlife Sanctuary photography tour at some point during the summer.

Tom did not have any news to report on the aerial photo project.

Karen E. stated that now is a good time to put in the storage shed for Erin with all the construction going on. Karen asked if the City has a boating ordinance, as there are boats in the sanctuary ignoring the “no wake” zone. Roger will check into this.

Vernie copied down the wording on a sign at the Fairgrounds for possible usage on our AWS signs: Pets must be leashed. Owners must clean up after their pets.

Roger was talking with Sheri Davis, a NOAA volunteer regarding the River Center Visitors Center. Sherry felt we needed more signage to direct visitors to our displays. Roger has contacted Sarah Waters about adding more signage.

Roger passed out a pamphlet on snakes and amphibians and would like to keep the discussion going regarding the Herpetology projects and speaker.

The next regular board meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, July 16 2015 at 4:00 p.m.** at City Hall. The meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m. NOTE: Roger will notify the board if location and time changes due to Artist in Residence potluck!

Respectfully Submitted,
Alice Holcomb, Secretary