

Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary Board
Minutes June 16, 2016

Members Present: Melissa Doubek, Vernie Nethercut, Tom Orth, Elizabeth Littler, Christian Stevens, Judy Kalmanek

Members Absent: Roger Witherbee, Susan Austin, Terry Gougeon, Adam Poll, Jackie Walchek, Erin Riopelle

Resource Members: Karen Enterline

The meeting was called to order at 3:59 p.m. by acting chair Melissa Doubek after establishing that a quorum was present.

A correction was made to the May 2016 minutes to read: *Tom has a group of friends that want to do clean up on the west part of the Sanctuary.*

A motion was made by Vernie, seconded by Elizabeth and carried that the minutes be approved as amended.

Updates:

There were no updates as Adam was absent.

Signs:

Judy and Elizabeth reported on the signs. They are in progress. Rich Sullenger has had permanent "No Bicycle" signs made and installed on the gate before the bridge. He removed the emergency temporary ones. It was pointed out that the city promised the Kendziorisks that there would be no signs directly on the bridge.

Susie is following up with Omega on the signs which will be placed below the current map signs—one on the Island the other atop the hill by the pamphlets in Duck Park.

It was agreed by the board that until the tree sign project meets the approval of the board as to content and design, it will be postponed.

Thunder Bay River Center, Fundraising, Web Site, Maritime Festival Updates:

Judy reported that paperwork on the River Center continues. The RC Board now has its own DUNS number and will shortly have a CAGE number as well.

Susie, Judy and Mary Beth met to edit the draft of bylaws for the Friends of the River Center group being established. Susie will begin recruiting volunteers during the June 25th event.

Plans for the June 25th day are being completed. There is still a need for volunteers. The CVB A-team has two people who have volunteered.

Susie has the web site in preparation mode. It will soon be ready to go live.

Jeff Gray, River Center Board member, has invited the River Center to have a booth at the Maritime Heritage Festival on July 4th. Judy is putting together a booth for the day. It will center on help with an "Unhealthy Harvest" asking for folks to identify invasive plants and native plants so they can help pull invasive plants when found.

Sanctuary Borders:

Vernie reported that many people do not know what or where the Wildlife Sanctuary is.

However, its boundaries do need to be established. Adam has searched a number of old records and was unable to find a definition of the sanctuary's borders. Vernie wrote the following definition:

Because of public and official confusion and inconsistencies on maps and in reports, pamphlets and other information, the Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary Board recommends that the Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary be officially defined as the 443.6 acres of water and water's edge of the Thunder Bay River west of Chisholm Street/U.S. 23 to the Bagley Street Bridge.

A motion was made by Vernie, seconded by Tom and carried that the definition be approved.

There are many maps which include the Wildlife Sanctuary; however, most of them incorrectly identify both the name and location of the Wildlife Sanctuary. Notification to appropriate groups would follow City Council approval. Vernie has agreed to follow up with Adam about the map issue as well as presenting the definition of the sanctuary to City Council.

Pamphlet Update:

Tom noted that he has received a number of suggestions. He and Vernie will work on the final edits. Tom suggested that the final wording could be approved via an email vote to enable to work to go forward. Members present agreed with this suggestion.

Round Table:

*Elizabeth is concerned about marking the non-trails. It was suggested that low posts could indicate the non trails and then brush could be piled there to dissuade use. Trail markers were also suggested.

If all the actual trails were barked it would solve the problem of identifying the trails. However, barking is expensive and a lack of volunteers is a problem. Melissa said her ROV group is looking for a project. She and Elizabeth will meet to see what the ROV group can help do. Tom suggested that Elizabeth email him about the need for volunteers. He will put it in the church bulletin and pass the information along to some of the other pastors as well.

Elizabeth and Ron Young are working on the set back demonstration area at Duck Park (the area across from the hospital).

*Tom reported on the Frog Bit Challenge event at Duck Park. It is underway and will continue throughout the summer into autumn.

*Christian stated he and Jackie are interested in volunteering for the River Center. He noted as well that together with Melissa, the two of them and a couple of friends located the buoys. Melissa said she noted the GPS location of each buoy. Some are in the right place, but mis-numbered; others are just missing. The buoys located at sites 1-5 are OK; the rest are a mess. Christian suggested that we might not need 11 of them. Their locations at present do not correspond with Erin's Blue Heron Water Trail brochure.

*Vernie volunteered to anyone who needed it the use of her canoe. It can just be picked up at her house. It has a set of wheels with it for portaging.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Judy Kalmanek, Secretary