

## **Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary Board Minutes August 17, 2017**

**Members Present:** Roger Witherbee, Vernie Nethercut, Elizabeth Littler, Tom Orth, Terry Gougeon, Adam Poll, Judy Kalmanek,

**Members Absent:** Susie Austin, Christian Stevens

**Resource Members:** Karen Enterline, Boris Gerber, Katherine Stedman

1. The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Chair Roger Witherbee

### **2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JULY 20, 2017**

A motion was made by Terry, seconded by Tom that the minutes be approved. Motion carried.

### **3. UPDATES FROM ADAM**

Trail cameras are in the process of being installed. There will be a couple placed strategically to monitor for vandalism.

Correction to Sanctuary boundaries on DNR 2016 Fisheries Report. Vernie will send Adam the exact name of the report so that he can contact the DNR to make corrections. Vernie had given Adam a copy of the report, but will send the citation again.

Board member vacancies and names of those approved to fill the vacancies (Boris Gerber and Karen Enterline) will be submitted to City Council for approval within the next couple of weeks.

### **4. SIGN PROJECT ON THE ISLAND**

Terry and Christian worked on installing the new backing plates on the tree signs. The holes were not quite in alignment, but Terry is making them work. They have about four signs completed and will continue the work as time allows.

### **5. WEED PULL RESULTS**

Elizabeth said the spotted knapweed pull went well. There were 15 volunteers who pulled 11 contractor bags of the invasive plant. Elizabeth has the list. One of the volunteers made a sign which Elizabeth could post. The sign is reusable for future years and the information was picked up by the local radio stations in addition to the newspaper article. Volunteers were rewarded with a BOGO coupon from North Country Candy & Gifts. The board noted that there is a significant decrease of spotted knapweed on the Island.

### **6. SCIENCE IN THE SANCTUARY**

The event was deemed successful. Sixty-one children were registered and it was noted that a number of others just came in without registering. F&W volunteer Heather Rawlings said there were 80 animal print castings made. Those who volunteered to have a station plan to return next year, too. One of the things that helped to encourage participation was the promise of a small reward (magnifying glass) for those who visited all the stations and had their maps marked. There were a number of door prizes awarded at the end of the event including fishing poles/tackle by Friends of Lake Huron

Watershed, family passes to Garlyn Zoo and other outdoor items. A new addition this year was learning to kayak sponsored by Casey Stutzman and the food vendor, Cooking for a Cause, by John Knapp.

#### **7. PROMO VIDEO/FACE BOOK**

Vernie asked about the upcoming social media class being offered by CFNEM. There will be three representatives of the Sanctuary attending both the a.m. and p.m. sessions (Judy, Betsy Hale and Nancy Green.

The board viewed the new promotional video by Stacy VanOrman for the River Center.

#### **8. CANOE/KAYAK STORAGE**

Adam reported that the city engineers believe it is better to have an outside contractor involved since the building is pictured into the hillside by the launch with a roof strong enough to support a lookout station. Roger will contact Todd Britton from Meridian who has done a lot of previous work for the city. A suggestion was made to include stairs/ramp from the top of the hill to allow persons with their own kayaks easier access to the launch area. The topic is scheduled for the next Lions Club meeting to see if they are interested in participating/sponsoring the storage facility.

#### **9. SOCIAL MEDIA TRAINING WAS COVERED IN 7 ABOVE.**

#### **10. ROUND TABLE**

The main discussion was centered on the no-wake in the sanctuary waters. Adam will obtain a list of the launching sites and whether there are signs there. At any rate, it was agreed that the signs need to be updated to include “no wake from Bagley Street bridge to the Chisholm Street bridge” as well as a statement of 5 mph in the sanctuary. Adam will verify if posting the no wake is within the city’s jurisdiction. Roger will inquire if the sheriff’s office can/will enforce the no wake (done! and they will). Adam will prepare a list of the names/addresses of riparian landowners around the sanctuary so that a mailing can be made to them asking for help in enforcing the no wake. It will be imperative for those reporting to the sheriff to obtain boat license numbers (or, at the least a good description–boat name) to help with the enforcement. Once the pieces are in place, the media will be notified to spread the word.

The old couch is still in the sanctuary. Tom will show Adam where it is. Adam stated the couch is a violation whether it is on private or sanctuary land.

The meeting was adjourned upon a motion made by Tom at 4:42 p.m.