

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

**Present:** Tom Orth, Alice Holcomb, Judy Kalmanek, Roger Witherbee, Elizabeth Littler, Vernie Netherut, Terry Gougeon, Erin Riopelle, Adam Poll  
Guests and Resource people: Karen Enterline

**Roger called the meeting to order** at 4:00 p.m. Minutes from the September 17, 2015 meeting were approved.

**Updates – Adam**

Adam reported that the bridge is almost completed.

**Island Management Plan - Elizabeth**

High School and Jr. High Volunteers recently helped drag the brush from Mike K.'s Buckthorn cutting to piles at Duck Park. The piles have been hauled away by the city. The large buckthorn that was left was right by the highway and too dangerous to cut and remove trimmings. Roger suggested the city take care of it.

Elizabeth reported on the proposed plantings around the bridge. She suggested a mixture of native trees and shrubs of varying heights. Elizabeth will prepare a list.

**Work Bees – Terry and Elizabeth**

Terry has organized a work bee for tree transplanting on Saturday, Oct. 17 for tree transplanting on the Island.

**Artist in Residence Program update – Alice**

Alice reported that she has been in contact with our previous artists and received the needed information for the signage at the library and for a web page link. The print from Gail Panske is at the frame shop. Alice is looking for suggestions on how to go about getting future artists to come to Alpena. Alice has researched some websites for registering as a location for residencies. The board suggested talking to instructors at ACC for advice. Alice has been working on a two-part contract for future artists. A copy is attached for board review and comment.

**Media coverage – Vernie and Alice**

Vernie reported that the series of three publicity pictures and articles have been published in the Alpena News.

**Reel Fun Ice Fishing Fund Raiser – Roger**

Roger reported that the committee has been working hard and dates are set for the two-day event, Feb. 26 for the Festivus, and Feb. 27 for the fishing tournament. Roger stressed the need for new volunteers.

**Steering Committee update – Judy**

The committee has met twice since Mac West left. The 501.c.3 is in the process of being formed as a sub-branch of the Wildlife Sanctuary Board. Also the by-laws are being worked on.

**Pamphlet updates**

Tom has gathered some extra pamphlets from other environmental entities to review.

## Roundtable

Alice will e-mail the Youth and Recreation funding report for the River Rats 2015 grant.

Adam stated that the webpage for the US 23 Heritage Route received over 100,000 hits. Vernie would like to see a list of the area activities in the paper prior to the weekend event.

There is no update on the "couch" found in the sanctuary.

Tom suggested a member of the board attend the City Recreation Committee meeting to address the sledding at Island Park.

Terry is concerned about the safety of the tree cutting (Buckthorn). A note for the future would be to have the teen wait until cutting is done to grab branches and brush.

Elizabeth and Roger addressed the need for volunteers to create our Friends Group. Elizabeth suggested a blurb in the newsletter, with an application asking people to fill in what they would like to help with. Also discussed was the possibility of a yearly fee, and whether this is ok to do prior to becoming 501.3.c status. Tom suggested going project to project, rather than just depending on a Friends Group. In his experience people will come when it fits their schedule. Everyone agreed that social media is a good communicator.

Judy asked if now would be a good time for a fall newsletter. She would like to wait to report on the feasibility study until after the final report is received from Mac. The board agreed to get articles on the IMP (including Guidelines), work bees, 2015 Artist in Residence, and River Rats. Articles are due to Judy no later than Oct. 31.

James Schultz, Eagle Scout, wants to put up posts on Sat. (Oct. 17) at the Island. James will get in touch with Elizabeth beforehand.

Roger reminded board members that Joy from Huron Pines will be at our November meeting to talk about the Island population of reptiles and amphibians.

The next regular board meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, November 19, 2015 at 4:00 p.m.** at City Hall. The meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Alice Holcomb, Secretary

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