

Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary Board Minutes
February 18, 2021
Zoom Meeting

Members Present:

Terry Gougeon, Roger Witherbee, Tom Orth, Boris Gerber, Susie Austin, Elizabeth Littler and Judy Kalmanek

Members Absent: Karen Enterline, Vernie Nethercut

City Staff: Andrea Kares

Resource Adviser: Catherine Stedman

I. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Judy Kalmanek at 4:14 p.m. until Terry could get online.

Congratulations was extended to both Elizabeth Littler and Catherine Stedman who achieved the Master Naturalist status. They had been recognized by MSU Extension with an embroidered patch.

II. Approval of Minutes: January 21, 2021

A motion was made by Boris, seconded by Susie and carried that the minutes of January 21, 2021 be approved as presented.

III. Additions to the Agenda

There were no additions to the agenda and it was accepted as presented.

IV. City Update

Andrea was happy to report that the city will remove the downed trees on Island Park. They ask that a member of the AWS Board mark which trees are to be removed.

A question was raised about Sytek Park in relation to the bridge replacement on Bagley Street. The park sign appears to be both deteriorating and in the path of the new roadway to the bridge. It isn't quite clear to whom the park belongs—either the City or the County. The county is currently caring for it and Andrea noted that Sytek is in the list of City Parks. Sytek Park is also in Part IV of the updated City Recreation Plan. Elizabeth noted there may be enough money in the Sytek Park fund to purchase a new sign once the bridge work is completed.

V. River Center Update

Judy discussed the need to be aware and participate in the plan to amalgamate the various frogbit efforts from Fletcher Pond to the Thunder Bay River mouth. Judy is meeting with two Huron Pines' AmeriCorps workers on February 24th at 1:00 in Duck Park. Members of the Board who are interested were invited to be part of this meeting. The AmeriCorps workers will be assigned to inventory the frogbit (and other invasive species) during the spring-summer months. This will be shared with Shane Lishawa's research group to help them locate areas of high infestation. It was decided that the AWS volunteer group will plan to do frogbit removal around the edges of the infestation—mostly, the west side of the sanctuary. Tom stated that we will need a flat bottom boat or a barge to haul out the frogbit. We'll be working pretty far from the shore; hence, the need for the boat/barge. The City has supplied a truck and plastic bags in the past to help with the effort; Andrea will ensure that occurs this year, too. Elizabeth noted that there was a webinar on frogbit that could be helpful. Andrea Googled it and the presentation is no longer available. The next event for the River Center will be the bowfishing tournament for invasive carp to be

held on May 15, 2021. Registration will take place beginning at noon and the event will get underway at 3:00 until 6:00 p.m. In conjunction with the event, a raffle of a 12' boat and trailer is planned.

VI. Additional Remarks from the Table

Terry: Mike Mandrick will again sponsor the River Rats program with a donation of \$250.

Susie: The plan for River Rats is to return it to its normal July schedule this July. Since it is outside, it should be Covid-safe unless there is a large increase in Covid cases. It has been suggested by community partners that Science in the Sanctuary be moved from August to June. There are too many scheduling conflicts in late summer and the Board agreed. Susie will begin notifying partners of the June date and event.

Andrea: The City Council received, approved and filed the AWS budget for 2021-2022 that Terry submitted.

Boris: The cold weather and the tromping of many feet has packed the snow on the Island Park trails into an easily traversed walking path. If it warms up next week, the walk may become slippery. So, go walk there this week. He noted that there are a few sledding marks, but not many.

Catherine: There are two of the tree signs damaged—it appears to be through gnawing! Many of the edge pieces on the signs are missing and Terry prefers not to try and replace them.

VII. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held via Zoom on March 18, 2021.

VIII. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by the Chair at 4:45 p.m.

Minutes taken and submitted by
Judy Kalmanek, Secretary
Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary Board