

Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary Board Minutes
June 18, 2020
Alpena City Hall

Members Present: Terry Gougeon,, Roger Witherbee, Susie Austin, Tom Orth, Karen Enterline, Judy Kalmanek

Members Absent: Elizabeth Littler, Vernie Nethercut, Boris Gerber

Staff: Rachel Smolinski

Resource: Mark Beins

Prior to the meeting, Tom Orth showed a series of photographs depicting trumpeter swans and their cygnets.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Terry Gougeon at 4:10 p.m.

2. Approval of the minutes of February 20,2020

A motion was made by Roger, seconded by Susie and carried that the minutes of February 20, 2020 be approved as presented.

3. Additions to the Agenda

The agenda was accepted as presented with no additions.

4. Update:

River Center: the annual City budget did not allow for the \$30,000 set aside for the TBRC to be included in the 2020-21 budget. Currently, the tax return for TBRC is being prepared by Marie Williams, CPA and will be emailed soon. It was necessary to file the 990-EZ separately from the CFNEM funds since TBRC has two additional accounts outside of CFNEM. The TBRC Board will meet via Zoom on Monday, June 29th at 4:30 p.m.

Frogbit/cattail Removal Shane Lishawa had promised to continue his work this summer by expanding into the AWS to work on the massive cattail/frogbit problem there. However, like many organizations, their state funding was rescinded. Judy presented a talking point sheet and sample letter asking Senator Stamas and Representative Sue Allor for help in having these funds restored in the state's 2021 budget. Judy distributed copies of the talking points and sample letter to members asking them to write their own. She will mail her letter on behalf of the AWS Board to both Senator Stamas and Representative Allor.

5 Update–Terry

Maintenance: we need to plan for some maintenance work on Island Park. Nothing has been done so far this year; however, the many visitors have been pretty careful and mostly staying on the trails. The restoration site is progressing and no vandalism has been done to the fenced area. Terry will schedule a work time soon and ask for everyone to help.

Environmental Certification: Alleigh Pagels has contacted Terry and there is still some work needed before we can become environmentally certified through Alpena-Montmorency Conservation District.

Insect Traps: Terry was contacted by MSU who needed a site for their insect traps. This is part of their forest entomology work and the traps are now in place. There were a couple of

questions from the Board about what kind of insects they hope to trap are and what does MSU expect to gather. Terry is hopeful that the Board will receive feedback from the data gathered in the traps to help us in our work on Island Park.

News Interview: Terry talked with Darby Hinkley at the Alpena News suggesting an article be done explaining the rehabilitation site and the erosion problem on Island Park as a matter of public education.

6. Additional Remarks

Terry was contacted by Tina St. John who would like to set up a number of poetry stations (each about 5' tall) on Island Park. There was discussion by the Board that this would not be in keeping with the mission of the Island. Instead, it was suggested that Duck Park or Rotary Park would be more appropriate. Susie motioned, seconded by Roger that we not allow the poetry stations on Island Park. Motion carried.

Susie announced that there will not be a formal River Rats program this summer. However, on Tuesdays during July, Susie will put out bags with instructions for self-guided tours, or for a to-do project at home. For example, there will be instructions for an origami caterpillar.

Artist-in-Residence will occur this year! Mark has accepted the application of Autumn Bildson a sculptor. Her information is available online at Stone Art Studio and Stone Carvers Guild.

Terry and Judy Gougeon will host the annual reception by the Board for Autumn beginning at 5:00 p.m. . It will be held on July 10th the day Autumn arrives. Terry will send out an email to the Board asking who can come and requesting all bring a dish to pass. Susie will again make a welcome-to-Alpena basket for Autumn.

Autumn would like to be able to demonstrate her work on site at Island Park. She will need electricity and Mark was assured that there are electrical outlets on both ends of the bridge. Judy will help him locate them.

Tom noted that there is a new trash piece at the end of Sand Point. Tom took photos of the “invasive”. It is a hammock stretched between two trees about 20' in the air. Access is gained through a series of boards nailed into the tree trunks. The decision is to remove it. Tom noted further that there are a number of old tires and an ancient snowmobile in the channel by the cemetery. Discussion will continue about when and if they should be removed; both appear to be long standing.

Susie suggested that we create a post with a shelf on it so that photos of the progress of the restoration site can be made. Folks will be encouraged to help document the restoration progress. Susie will create something to share for the next Board meeting.

7. Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary Board will be July 16, 2020 at 4:30 p.m. in City Hall Council Chambers.

8. Adjourn

Roger motioned, seconded by Karen that the meeting be adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Minutes taken and submitted by

Judy Kalmanek, Secretary
Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary Board