

Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary Board Minutes
October 17, 2019
Alpena City Hall

Members Present: Terry Gougeon, Vernie Nethercut, Tom Orth, Elizabeth Littler, Boris Gerber, Roger Witherbee, Judy Kalmanek

Members Absent: Susie Austin, Karen Enterline

Staff: Adam Poll

Resource: Catherine Stedman,

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Terry Gougeon at 4:03 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Roger, seconded by Tom and carried that the minutes of September be approved as amended. The date was changed from August to September. The line reading, “tom noted he discussed the wake issues with the DNR as well” should be changed to read that the local police will talk with the DNR about enforcing the No Wake law.

3. Additions to the Agenda

The agenda was accepted as presented.

4. City Update

Adam reported that mostly what is occurring is completing road projects prior to winter.

5. River Center Update

Judy said that the kayak storage building after a number of delays has been blueprinted and the drawings sealed by the engineer. It is expected that the building will be completed by year’s end. When the contractor re-studied the site plans, he learned that the sidewalk beside the kayak/canoe launch is within the flood plane. Consequently, the building will need to be raised up and the roof will be about 4-6 feet above ground. This will eliminate the viewing platform since it will be very costly to install a ramp to the proposed observation deck and would entail the loss of a parking spot, too.

Roger and Judy met with representatives from Consumers Energy about the possibility of some funding from them. However, since there are only about 130 Consumers’ customers in the watershed (Alcona County), the watershed is outside their funding area.

The Financial Feasibility study report stated that between 1M and 1.5M is possible to raise locally. Without significant in-kind donations and large grants, the project is not feasible as designed.

6. Sportsman’s Island Sign

There was much discussion but no resolution about the sign. Vernie motioned to rescind the motion of July 19, 2018 to remove the sign, seconded by Boris and carried. There is some

agreement on retaining parts of the current sign. Roger motioned to remove the top two planks, replace them with City of Alpena Island Park and keep the remainder. Boris seconded the motion and it carried with one member opposed.

7. Boot Brush Stations

Elizabeth had a graphic and article about a boot brush station kit. Catherine has seen them at Taquamenon State Park, but could not say whether or how much they were used. There was some discussion that the boot brush station and its explanatory sign could make people aware of one way that invasive species are spread. It was decided to table this discussion until next spring.

8. Artist in Residence and Working Signs

Mark Beins had reported to Terry that the 2019 artist in residence had suggested that a portable sign be created indicating that plein air art was occurring. The sign would be portable and could be set up at the area where the artist and others were painting. Terry suggested that a similar sign would be useful when work was being done on Island and Duck Park. Terry agreed to contact Mark about creating the signs.

9. Island Park Maintenance

Terry reported on the DPI Community Day. DPI employees were given time off work to help with barking/wood chipping trails, trimming trees and bushes overhanging the trails, pulling autumn olive and cleaning the paved access. There were thirteen employees plus Terry, Roger and Judy who participated in the event. One big achievement was spreading wood chips on the lower trail along Chisholm Street side. This area is very low and some of it was quite muddy. The chips will provide a cleaner walking trail. By noon, it was apparent that more chips would be needed and DPI donated another two truck loads. DPI's next Community Day will be on October 23rd from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

10. Additional Remarks from the Table

Elizabeth passed around an interesting photo of a sign in a Toronto park entitled "Poop and Scoop" to remind people to pick up after their dogs.

Tom will send Judy the names of the DNR volunteers who moved the buoys to their assigned spots on the Blue Heron Water Trail. Judy will follow-up with a thank you letter to them.

11. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary Board will be on November 21, 2019 in City Hall at 4:00 p.m.

12. Adjourn

A motion was made by Roger, seconded by Judy to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned by the chair at 4:41p.m.

Minutes taken by
Judy Kalmanek, Secretary

Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary Board