

**MINUTES**  
**ALPENA WILDLIFE SANCTUARY BOARD**  
**City Hall – May 19, 2016 – 4:00 p.m.**

*Present:* Judy Kalmanek, Roger Witherbee, Vernie Nethercut, Tom Orth, Adam Poll, Terry Gougeon, Elizabeth Littler, Alice Holcomb, Melissa Doubek, Jackie Walchek, Christian Stevens

*Guests and Resource people:* Susie Austin, Karen Enterline, Carl Kelly, James Shultz

*Absent:* Erin Riopelle

*Roger called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.*

*A motion to approve the April 16, 2016 minutes was made by Judy, seconded by Elizabeth. Motion approved.*

*James reported on the tree identification progress for his Eagle Scout project. He passed out a handout with 18 sign designs. He will be using an alternate website with better information on the trees. Brook Alloway and James will be meeting on the Island to go over the tree I.D's. The funding from DTE fell through, but James has another source that he is going to pursue. The board made suggestions for things to be fixed on the handout. The QR code leads to a National Geographic site.*

*Carl Kelly was introduced. He is a member of the Walleye Club, helps with the Reel Fun, and was a participant in the May 14 Island work bee.*

**Updates – Adam**

*Adam reported that bark was delivered to the Island and spread on trails during the work bee. Another load will be delivered soon. A date for the bridge dedication will be announced soon.*

**Signs – Judy**

*Judy passed out a sample of the sign she designed with simple positive guidelines and icons to go with them. Susan suggested having the guidelines added to the map sign underneath and have a trashcan and dog bag dispenser nearby. The board discussed how to keep people on the designated trails, as some of them are not barked. Ideas included blocking*

them off better with more brush, and adding a set of stairs and fishing platform off the right of the lookout.

A committee of Susie, Terry and Judy will get costs to incorporate the existing sign and guidelines Judy designed.

#### Thunder Bay River Center update – Judy

A mini grant will be used for the Science in the Sanctuary Day on June 25. NEMROC is making buttons that will be used for tickets. Judy gave an overview of the many activities that are planned for the day.

Judy updated the board on the campaign for silent fundraising.

Susie is making the new RC website ([rivercenteralpena.com](http://rivercenteralpena.com)).

The RC board is working with architects to encompass the “feeling” of the bridge in the RC design. ANCA and others have helped. Bruce Johnson, an architect who was previously an Alpena resident, currently lives in North Carolina. He can work on the design, and then allow a local architect and contractors to continue the process. Bruce will Skype with the RC board on Tuesday at 9:30.

#### Island Work Bee – Terry and Elizabeth

There was a good turnout for the work bee with over 12 volunteers. Bark was spread on trails, stairways swept, trash picked up, and some shrubs planted. Bob Weinkauff has picked up all the tubes and bird houses are being repaired and cleaned.

#### Pamphlet update – Tom

Tom will email the board the updates on the pamphlet.

#### Blue Water Trail – Roger

Roger had a copy of the most updated Blue Water Trail pamphlet. Some of the buoys have been moved due to freezing and heaving of water in the sanctuary. Melissa agreed to check out the buoy locations in her canoe.

### Beaver work - Elizabeth

There has been lots of beaver activity causing erosion and vertical trails below the lookout. No action will be taken.

### Secretary, Artist in Residence, River Rats - Alice

Due to a job change for husband, Brent, Alice is leaving Alpena next month. This leaves the board without a secretary and Artist in Residence liaison. Alice will be able to help with River Rats in June and Melissa and Alice are planning two sessions, June 29 and July 13. Alice will publicize the sessions in the Alpena News. After this summer, Melissa is not sure the program will continue. Judy is working on a shared Americorp position for the River Rats. Alice will contact Justin Christianson Cooper, our AR jury member, to see if he would be willing to head up the AR program. The Aten's carriage house will need to be cleaned the day prior to Mick's arrival. Alice had agreed to do this before realizing she would be moving. Roger agreed to take care of it. Alice will contact Andrew Reddington for an update on the artwork from last year's residency.

The board thanked Alice for her nine years of service.

Susie expressed an interest in filling the empty spot on the board. Vernie made a motion to have Susie on the board, Judy seconded. Motion approved.

### Roundtable

Sarah Waters has informed us that a sign for the RC Visitors Center has been placed near the entrance to the Sphere at NOAA. Also the Visitors Center is on the NOAA facilities map.

Terry will clean the shed on the Island.

The Huron Pines Frogbit Challenge begins on June 10.

Tom has a group of friends that want to do clean up on the Island. The couch is still in the sanctuary!

Carl would like dog bag dispensers near the Island. Carl stated that the Rotary sign might be upgraded with "You Are Here" clearly marked for visitors to Alpena. Carl informed the board that a large log needs to be removed from the main trail near the pavement.

*Elizabeth stated that search and rescue dogs are still using the Island for training. Part of our planning has been to give groups such as this a list of alternate sites they could use. They said they had permission.*

*Elizabeth did an A.L.L. talk and tour for 13 people. The garden work has begun. Mike is putting planter boxes on bridge.*

*Susie sent the link to board members for Google Calendar. At a later time it will be added to the website for public knowledge.*

*On June 27 Besser 4<sup>th</sup> graders will be on the Island for their annual learning and workday.*

*The next regular board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 16 at 4:00 p.m. at City Hall. The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.*

*Respectfully Submitted,  
Alice Holcomb, Secretary*