

Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary Board Minutes
November 19, 2020
Zoom Meeting

Members Present:

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

City Staff: Andrea Kares

Resource Adviser: Catherine Stedman

I. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Chair Terry Gougeon at 4:01 p.m.

II. Approval of Minutes

Roger motioned, seconded by Elizabeth and Vernie that the minutes of September 17, 2020 be approved. The motion carried.

III. Additions to the Agenda

Terry added the City Update to the agenda which has been traditionally given by the City Planning and Development Director will be re-instated. The update will be given by Andrea Kares, the new City Planning and Development Director.

IV. City Update

Andrea reported that since there is an increase in the city of COVID 19 cases, the city building will be closed to the public until at least December 9th.

A question had been raised about the plans to build the new school bus garage on a wetland area. Plans have changed and the school is looking at city property on US 23.

There is a strong concern about the building of an ACE Hardware store north of Dean Arbor Ford. This is a wetland area and the developers have dug a containment pond to drain the area. Andrea noted that the building process has stopped for now. A suggestion was made that we contact EGLE who are responsible at the state level for protecting wetlands. The representative, Theresa Sherwood, can be asked to investigate the site. Boris will make the call since he lives near the site and is familiar with the problem. It was noted that a housing development was prevented there because it was a wetland. Tom made a motion, seconded by Judy that the Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary Board is concerned about building on the site since it is in the Thunder Bay River Watershed and it water drains into Fletcher Creek and then into the sanctuary itself. The motion carried.

V. River Center Update

Judy reported that the TBRC Board is preparing for Giving Tuesday. She will send information and a graphic to the AWS Board. She asked that each board member contact 10 people so that this year's Giving Tuesday is a successful fundraiser for the River Center.

Magic in Our Midst will be held again this year on December 11th at Duck and Island Park. Since it is outdoors and only six groups of 6 per hour are led on the tour, it is a safe COVID activity.

VI. Island Park Maintenance.

Terry and Boris did some invasive removal on Island Park in September. They removed autumn olive, spotted knapweed and leafy spurge. Terry took measurements in preparation to repairing the fishing dock on the Chisholm Street side of the Island. Plans are to make the repairs in the spring.

VII. Additional Remarks

Catherine walked the Island on Wednesday and noted there was a jack pine that had fallen and is nearly blocking a trail. Boris said he will take care of the tree.

The steps going up to the top of the Island need to be cleaned prior to *Magic in Our Midst* event. Judy and Roger will take care of that.

Vernie re-iterated the need for contacting EGLE for help on the wetland issue at the site of the ACE hardware.

VIII. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Board will be on December 17, 2020 via Zoom at 4:00 p.m. Terry expressed gratitude to Tom for hosting the meeting.

IX. Adjourn

Terry adjourned the meeting at 4:29 p.m.

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