

**Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary Board Minutes**  
**August 19 , 2021**  
**Zoom Meeting**

**Members Present:**

Terry Gougeon, Roger Witherbee, Tom Orth, Susie Austin, Elizabeth Littler, Karen Enterline, Judy Kalmanek

Members Absent: Boris Gerber, Vernie Nethercut

Resource Advisor: Catherine Stedman

City Staff: City Manager, Rachel Smolinski

**I. Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Terry Gougeon at 4:13 p.m.

**II. Approval of minutes from June 17, 2021**

It was noted that the board did not meet in July. A motion was made by Susie Austin, seconded by Karen Enterline and carried that the minutes of June 17, 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**

Rachel stated that the goose reduction hunt is scheduled to occur on September 9, 16, and 23<sup>rd</sup>.

The hunt reduces the number of goose droppings in public walking and recreating areas. The city receives numerous complaints about goose droppings each year.

The search continues to find a suitable candidate to fill the vacant position of City Planning, Development and Zoning Director. Rachel is determined to find the correct fit for the job rather than fill a vacancy.

**V. River Center Update**

TBRC Board members Bill Haase and Judy Kalmanek helped with the annual car show on August 14<sup>th</sup>. As a reward, TBRC was given a donation of \$500 by Top O'Michigan Solutions. Judy reported that the business plan for the river center is in usable form and is being given to some possible funders.

**VI. Island Park Maintenance**

Terry reported that there is considerable poison ivy next to the stairs by the Turtle Bar. Terry did spray using a non chemical formula and it appeared to have worked. It was noted that the presence of poison ivy might help people stay on the marked trails.

Terry is scheduling a spotted knapweed and autumn olive clean up for Island Park on Tuesday, August 24<sup>th</sup> beginning at 10:00 a.m. He will send out an email to all the board as a reminder.

Mark Beins' sister notified Terry that one of Mark's paintings will be donated in his memory. It will hang in the river center when the center is constructed. Betsy Hale volunteered to mat and frame the picture.

**VII. Additional Remarks from the Table**

Tom reminded the board that he will be conducting two kayak tours of the Sanctuary for ALL. There were 18 people who signed up for the tour; consequently, Tom will conduct the first tour on August 20<sup>th</sup> and the second tour with the other half of the group on August 25<sup>th</sup>. He noted that anyone is welcome to sign up for the tour, not just ALL members.

Tom is proposing to conduct one kayak tour of the Sanctuary during each of the summer months (June, July, August) in 2022.

Catherine was pleased to report that during Science in the Sanctuary on August 12<sup>th</sup> the visitors to her stand helped remove spotted knapweed and leafy spurge and filled about 3/4 of a trash bag with these invasive species.

Susie noted that Science in the Sanctuary was very well attended this year. There were about 150 people (mostly children) who participated. This was a good sign since the event had to be re-scheduled due to inclement weather on August 3<sup>rd</sup>. River Rats went well also this summer. Susie reported that each session had about 20-25 children in attendance. She and Catherine held an additional session of River Rats at the Boys and Girls Club; one was for K-2 students and a second one was for 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> grade students. It, too, was well attended.

Judy reminded everyone that another narrow leaf cattail and frogbit removal is scheduled for Friday August 27<sup>th</sup>. She will send an email to those who participated in the other removal events. Pizza from JJ's will be provided for lunch.

#### **VIII. Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary Board will be held via Zoom on September 16, 2021.

#### **IX. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned by the Chair at 4:38 p.m.

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