

**Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary Board Minutes  
February 17, 2022  
Zoom Meeting**

**Members Present:**

Terry Gougeon, Roger Witherbee, Tom Orth, Boris Gerber, Vernie Nethercut, Elizabeth Littler, Karen Enterline, Judy Kalmanek  
Resource Advisor Catherine Stedman,  
City Staff: City Planning, Development and Zoning Director Montiel Birmingham

**Members Absent:** Susie Austin,

**I. Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Terry Gougeon at 4:02 p.m.

**II. Approval of Minutes of January 20, 2022**

Vernie had an addition to make to her report. She noted that news media reports of Wildlife Sanctuary Board meetings are sent to radio and tv stations, the Alpena News and regional newspapers and to several nonprofit and governmental organizations.

A motion was made by Tom, seconded by Elizabeth and carried that the minutes of January 20, 2022 be approved as amended.

**III. Additions to the Agenda**

There were no additions to the agenda and it was accepted as presented.

**IV. City Update**

Montiel has been busy with a housing taskforce to address housing shortages in the area. The City will be reviewing an Outdoor Seating and Dining ordinance at the next Planning Commission meeting.

She noted that Steve Shultz has been out of office and has not had an opportunity to review the Island Park bench guidelines prepared by Terry yet; Montiel will follow up with Steve.

**V. River Center Update**

Judy reported that the Reel Fun Ice Fishing Tournament is Saturday, February 19<sup>th</sup>. Ticket sales were quite slow at first but are picking up. Festivus will be held in March (probably the 18<sup>th</sup>) as a drive through "Winter Picnic" at Duck Park. There will be prizes and a door prize. Tickets will be \$5 and include either a brat or burger, chips, cookie and water/soft drink. The food is being donated so there will be a good profit.

The application to USDA-RD for \$19,600 has been submitted. These funds will enable the last 20% of the architectural/engineering work to be completed. Once done, Phase I of the River Center can be constructed in 2023.

**VI. Island Park Maintenance**

Terry announced that there will be a large cattail/frogbit removal day on June 24<sup>th</sup>. In addition to our local volunteers, Huron Pines and the Loyola team will probably participate. We'll inaugurate our new aquatic weed trimmers this summer, too. Terry prefers beginning removing thecattails/frogbit at the kayak/canoe launch where we worked last year and continue working toward the condos.

In October, Huron Pines plans to remove the woody invasive plants from Island Park. This will include glossy buckthorn this year. Steve Woods of Huron Pines is confident that we can all work together and make Island Park free of invasive plants.

All AWS Board members had received a copy of the proposed budget and were pleased that all suggestions had been included. It was good that supplies had been added since we'll need some safety equipment for operating the aquatic weed trimmers as well as additional gas and oil.

Terry had mailed all Board members a copy of the draft Island Park bench guidelines. The Board was happy with Terry's draft. It was agreed that there should be limits on the number of benches permitted on the Island. It was suggested that a grid of the Island be drawn and places identified where 3 or 4 benches could be placed. The number once established will be the number permitted once the grid is drawn and voted on by the Board.

#### VII. Additional Remarks from the Table

Vernie noted that the snow hill at Mich-e-ke-wis Park that was constructed for the Ice Fest was a great hit with young folks. Perhaps the City will consider having it there all winter long in the future.

#### VIII. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary Board will be on March 17, 2022 at 4:00 p.m. via Zoom.

#### IX. Adjourn

A motion was made by Judy, seconded by Elizabeth that the meeting be adjourned. It was adjourned at 4:22 by the Chair.

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