

Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary Board Minutes
March 17, 2022
Zoom Meeting

Members Present:

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

Resource Advisor Catherine Stedman,

City Staff: City Planning, Development and Zoning Director Montiel Birmingham

Members Absent: Susie Austin, Karen Enterline

I. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Chair Terry Gougeon at 4:05 p.m.

II. Approval of Minutes of February 17, 2022

A motion was made by Roger, seconded by Tom and carried that the minutes of February 17, 2022 be approved.

III. Additions to the Agenda

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

IV. City Update

Montiel reported that she has been working on the grant application to DNR Land and Water with Shannon Smolinski and Judy.

She noted that Terry will present the annual report to City Council on Monday, March 21, 2022.

V. River Center Update

Judy noted that besides working on the grant, she has written a letter to City Council assuring them of the \$150,000 match from TBRC funds for the grant application.

The Huron Coastal Invasive Species Network (HC-ISN) held its annual meeting on March 10th. They plan to hold their next committee meeting on May 19th and would like to meet with members of the AWS Board at Duck Park at 10:30 to see the invasive species work being done in the Sanctuary and tour Island Park. All Board members are encouraged to join in the walk.

VI. Island Park Maintenance

Bench Guidelines: Terry asked for comments on the Bench Guidelines Policy. The Board congratulated Terry on the document. A motion was made by Judy, seconded by Boris and carried that the Bench Guidelines Policy be adopted.

Terry will contact the two individuals who have applied to place a bench. They are Dave Motash and Stephanie Hollander (stephanie.r.hollander@gmail.com)

Insect Study: MSU would like to continue the insect study on Island Park again this year. Terry approved their request.

The big invasive cleanup day will be June 24th. It was noted that the Art Fair will also be going on that date. Since they occupy the area in the center of Duck Park and the cleanup will be in and along the water, we'll probably not interfere with one another. Tom noted we should have plenty of AWS brochures and a one page description of the invasive species we are removing available.

VII. Additional Remarks

Jeff Diemond (retired skipper of the *Tanner*) indicated to Boris that he is willing to help with re-locating the buoys to their original location. Boris noted that Jeff and his crew did a survey of the river depth and the bottom material as they went. If they do this again this year, we may be able to note changes in depth and silt accumulation. They surveyed from the river mouth to Four Mile Dam and mapped the shoreline, too, which will indicate erosion sites on the river.

Elizabeth asked what will take the place of the invasive plants on Island Park once they are removed in October. The answer is that we'll be responsible (with HP help) to replace them with native plants.

Vernie thanked and congratulated Roger who has agreed to provide housing for the Artist-in-Residence program this year. The Board expressed appreciation, too.

VIII. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the AWS Board will be on April 21, 2022.

IX. Adjourn

A motion was made by Judy, seconded by Elizabeth and carried that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting was closed by the Chair at 4:27 p.m.

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