

Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary Board Minutes
May 18, 2023
Alpena City Committee Room

Members Present:

Terry Gougeon, Tom Orth, Boris Gerber (via Zoom), Catherine Stedman, Judy Kalmanek, Elizabeth Littler, Vernie Nethercut, Lisa Kruse

Member Absent: Lucille Bray, Larry Johns

Supporting Members:

City Staff: none

Guests: Edith Gerber Artist-in-Residence Coordinator (via Zoom), Steve Jakubcin 2023 Artist-in-Residence

I. Call to Order:

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

II. Additions to and Approval of the Agenda

There were no additions to the agenda and it was approved upon a motion made by Tom and seconded by Judy.

III. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the April 20, 2023 meeting were approved upon a motion made by Vernie, seconded by Elizabeth and carried.

IV. Public Comment

No others, beside the board members and invited guests, were present, therefore there were no public comments.

V. City Report

There was no City report

VI. River Center Report

Judy gave an update on the application to the county Youth and Recreation Committee. Chris Powley, TBRC Board Secretary and Judy will make an oral presentation to this committee on June 1, 2023. TBRC is requesting \$73,400 to be used as match for the \$150,000 DNR Land and Water grant already awarded. The plan is to continue raising matching funds to meet the required \$150K required for the DNR grant.

An application has been submitted for \$5K to the MI Non-profit Grants for reimbursement of some of the money lost due to Covid 19.

The wildflower seed sales continue. Alpena High School robotics is selling seed packets as are Hillman HS Honor Society. These two groups are partnering with TBRC and will earn \$2.00 for each \$5.00 pack of seeds sold.

VII. Other Business Reports

Artist-in-Residence: Edith discussed the Artist-in-Residence plans for this year. She is planning the welcoming reception/pot luck for June 25, 2023 starting at 4:00 p.m. The event will

be held at the Gerber's cottage on Lake Huron. Edith will send out an email with directions to the cottage before June 25th. Steve Jakubcin gave the board a brief outline of what he hopes to achieve using photographic media this summer. He is planning most of his work during July which will include a hands-on class for anyone interested.

Social Media: There was a discussion of what social media would benefit the AWS in it's mission to educate the public about the sanctuary. Various suggestions were made. It was agreed that a Facebook presence is probably best for this community, to start small and add to the page as the need grows, perhaps post weekly using a tag line like "seen in the AWS this week". Lisa agreed to write a proposal to the Board outlining a possible plan to increase the AWS presence on social media.

River Rats/Science in the Sanctuary: there was no discussion on the topic since Larry was absent. It was noted that the River Rats materials need to be recovered and placed at Grace Lutheran's storage shed.

VIII. Park Maintenance

Trail Chipping: Terry reported that there will be 50 volunteers from CRTS who will spread the wood chips on the main trails on Island Park June 9, 2023. Board members who can come are encouraged to bring wheelbarrows, rakes, shovels to help with spreading. Elizabeth will call the City to request additional tools. Joel Fraley will bring his tractor with front end loader to help move large piles. Terry will send out an email with the plan prior to June 9th.

Shed Break-ins: There were a number of suggestions ranging from doing nothing to installing a steel door frame and door. Terry had a sign that he plans to post indicating that the area is observed by cameras. The Board agreed that this approach was worth trying for now.

IX. Additional Remarks from the Table

Catherine discussed the higher than usual tick problem this year. She obtained a couple of signs and some business-size cards from the health department which showed pictures and described the types of ticks in Michigan. Terry will post the large tick sign under the Island map at Duck Park.

Tom reported that the sanctuary seems devoid of waterfowl now that most of the mute swans are gone. He did note that a pair of loons are nesting, a pair of sandhill cranes already have several chicks, and is not sure about the remaining trumpeter. The number of geese with goslings seems to be down some, too.

Terry suggested that we begin to plan on how to replace the O.B. Eustis lookout. It is old and has some weak areas. It was suggested that when an estimate of the cost to replace the current platform with an extended overview and steps leading to the water is obtained, grants could help pay for the replacement.

X. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the AWS Board will be held in the City Committee Room on the 2nd floor of the Alpena City Hall at 4:00 p.m. on June 15, 2023.

XI. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by the chair at 5:15 p.m.

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