

Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary Board Minutes
May 19, 2022
Zoom Meeting

Members Present:

Tom Orth, Vernie Nethercut, Elizabeth Littler, Terry Gougeon

Resource Advisor: Catherine Stedman

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

Members Absent: Roger Witherbee, Boris Gerber, Karen Enterline, Judy Kalmanek, Susie Austin

I. Call to Order:

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

Only 4 board members present, 5 needed for quorum.

II. Approval of Minutes of April 21, 2022

Skipped due to not having a quorum – will be voted on at June 16 meeting.

III. Additions to the Agenda

There were no additions to the agenda.

IV. City Update

Montiel reported that after an initial review by the DNR, modifications to the grant for Phase 1 of the TBRC project were submitted last week.

As part of our Zoning Ordinance update, we will be requesting Huron Pines review our list of landscaping criteria, specifically suggested plant materials; she will also send the ordinance pages to members of the Wildlife Sanctuary Board who would like to review it.

V. Artist in Residence

Terry asked if an artist should attend one of our meetings to keep us updated. Emily Yates has agreed to accept and chose August 11-25 as preferred dates. Dates are contingent on Roger's schedule and waiting for confirmation. Reception discussion will have to be postponed until next month (location if/when/where). Not sure if Roger will have the reception at his location; Terry was open to hosting.

VI. River Rats

Susie was not in attendance to provide an update.

VII. Island Park Maintenance

Terry Gougeon noted the following:

Debris: Sean McNamara from DPW cut down debris on the trail. Scout project is a mess and most don't have signage anymore; Judy has the information that was on the signs and suggested printing on metal and attaching differently. Bench on the island on the meadow is in rough shape and is no longer attached due to rusting off; slats are wood and are in rough shape as well. Consider rejuvenating or replacing the bench; it could be another option for a memorial bench location.

Weed Cutters: Trying out a couple weed cutters along the bridge to be ready for June 24th cattail cutting. Tom checking on helpers for Terry.

Benches: Hollander bench slab is approved. Matash bench is also approved, and it was agreed to place concrete pillars to attach to. Both were approved by Steve Shultz, City Engineer.

Wood duck boxes: Terry will contact the person that was going to take care of them. Of the three boxes, one is gone, the other has its side torn out, and the other is leaning out onto the water.

Bird Houses: Wasn't able to clean out old bird houses this spring and too late at this point.

VIII. Additional Remarks

Catherine Stedman noted that a huge cedar tree fell and is blocking a path...people are walking around it which is creating another path. Terry has not mentioned to DPW at this time.

Terry Gougeon mentioned that someone spray painted graffiti on the island.

Vernie Nethercut inquired about vandalism, if trail cameras are still present, and if they could be activated. She requested to put vandalism on the agenda for the next meeting to addressing repairing the vandalism that has occurred and how to address going forward.

Elizabeth Littler inquired about Terry's walk with Huron Pines to address invasive species. Target time for Huron Pines to work on the island is October. Terry noted he will talk to Sean McNamara at DPW to see if they can get the wood chipper on the island.

Tom Orth confirmed that island tours start next week and only a specific number can attend at a time.

IX. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the AWS Board will be via Zoom at 4:00 p.m. on June 16, 2022.

X. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by the Chair at 4:30 p.m.

Minutes taken and submitted by:

Montiel Birmingham, City of Alpena Planning, Development & Zoning Director
City Staff Liaison to the Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary Board