

Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary Board Minutes
June 15, 2023
Alpena City Committee Room

Members Present:

Terry Gougeon, Tom Orth,, Catherine Stedman, Judy Kalmanek, Elizabeth Littler, Vernie Nethercut, Lisa Kruse

Member Absent: Lucille Bray, Boris Gerber, Larry Johns

Guest: Samantha Nellis, Huron Pines Water Program Director

I. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Chair Terry Gougeon at 4:01 p.m.

II. Additions to and Approval of the Agenda

Vernie proposed an additional agenda item on News Articles. A motion was made by Lisa, seconded by Elizabeth and carried that the agenda be approved as amended.

III. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the May 18, 2023 meeting were approved upon a motion made by Vernie, seconded by Catherine and carried.

IV. Public Comment

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

V. News Articles

There was no City report since Montiel was absent and the *News Articles* topic was inserted in place of the City Update. Vernie reported that she writes a monthly article based on the minutes if there are items of general interest discussed. She emails copies of the article to all news media (paper and digital) plus the Chamber of Commerce and the Senior Center for inclusion in their newsletters. Vernie passed around a copy of the article on the artist in residence. At this point, Lisa added her information on the draft plan for social media. She noted that all of Vernie's articles can be put on social media; she suggests FaceBook and Instagram as the most popular. Items placed on either are picked up on the other since they are owned by the same company. Items can be as simple as a photo with caption; but the FaceBook page will need to be updated at least weekly. This can be a means of attracting volunteers for events like frogbit/cattail clean up. Lisa agreed to be one of the two needed posters to FaceBook. She will need items from all board members to make this a success. The AWS Board does have a FaceBook page; Judy will contact Susie Austin and ask her to give Lisa administrator access to the page. Lisa will send copies of the draft proposal to the Board and check with Montiel to ensure that a FaceBook page is OK with the City.

VI. River Center Report

Judy reported that last year's artist-in-residence, Steven Gutierrez, will be visiting in Alpena July 5th and will bring his donation piece for the River Center. The Board would like to meet with Steven and his family again. Terry agreed to host a potluck supper. Judy will follow up with Steven to solidify the date.

VII. Other Business Reports

Samantha Nellis had been asked to talk with the Board about the City/Township/County water protection plans. She has been working with this committee for some time and reported on its progress. This includes the plan for stormwater runoff through filtering and creation of alley swales to treat runoff. Samantha showed a photo of a swale planned for Center Street alley as an example.

Samantha spoke briefly about the recently created *Lake Huron Forever* project which is a partnership between Michigan and Ontario, Canada. This international project continues to move ahead with joint ventures to ensure that Lake Huron remains a clean water source. One Michigan initiative centers on the many private wells and septic systems in very rural Northeast Michigan which can become sources of groundwater contamination. Huron Pines was recently awarded the single grant to address this latter problem.

The Board had a few questions and thanked Samantha for her informative presentation.

VIII. Park Maintenance

Terry reported that he put up the camera surveillance sign on the Island shed, put up the “Not a Trail” sign at the west dock. A tick awareness sign was posted at the garden on Duck Park.

Terry stated that the frogbit/cattail removal went well. Two truckloads of biomass were removed. It appears that the frogbit is lessening some in the areas where work has been done each year. There are concerns about the spread around the islands in the middle of the sanctuary. Huron Pines would like to try using the harvester in these areas where the water is deeper.

There has been no further break-ins or vandalism at the shed.

IX Additional Remarks from the Table

Elizabeth showed the sign regarding the monarch butterfly watch to be posted at the raingarden and a certificate awarded to the City for the same.

Tom noted that there is one chick remaining with the loons, three trumpeter cygnets and possibly two sandhill crane colts (who never raise their heads high enough to observe). Judy added that there are two wood duck chicks, three ring bill grebes and a pair of moorhens as well.

X Adjournment

The next meeting of the AWS Board will be at 4:00 July 20, 2023 in City Hall Committee Room. The present meeting was adjourned by the Chair at 5:05.

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