

# **Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary Board Minutes**

## **September 16 , 2021**

### **Zoom Meeting**

#### **Members Present:**

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

Members Absent: Susie Austin

Resource Advisor: Catherine Stedman

City Staff: City Manager, Rachel Smolinski

#### **I. Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Terry Gougeon at 4:09 p.m.

#### **II. Approval of Minutes**

A correction was made to the August 19, 2021 minutes. The months of the 2022 paddle tours should read May, June, July. A motion was made by Terry, seconded by Tom and carried that the minutes 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**

Rachel noted that the goose hunt was going well. So far 86 geese have been harvested; most of them from the Alpena County Fairgrounds. The controversy surrounding the goose hunt has prompted Rachel to assemble an ad hoc committee called Protection Of Our Parks (POOP) to discuss how best to combat animal waste in city parks. She would like a member of the AWS Board to volunteer to be a member of the committee. If interested, please contact Rachel. Rachel has interviewed and offered the position of City Planning, Development and Zoning Director to a prospective candidate. She'll announce the person's name once the actual hiring has occurred.

As a reminder, Rachel told the board that the contract for an entity to operate the canoe/kayak launch at Duck Park will need to be re-negotiated before it expires December 31<sup>st</sup>.

#### **V. River Center Update**

The boat/trailer raffle was a great success. All 1,000 tickets were sold and \$7,149 deposited into the River Center Operational Fund. The total cost of the boat/trailer from the Boat House was \$2,800. A CFNEM grant of \$1,000 toward its purchase has been requested. The net proceeds will be \$5,349. The uneven amount was the result of people not purchasing a raffle ticket but still making a donation to the River Center. One good result was that ticket purchasers each received an explanatory brochure about the River Center.

The next upcoming events include Magic in Our Midst in December, Festivus (which will be a winter picnic at Duck Park) and the Reel Fun Ice Fishing Tournament. All help will be greatly appreciated for all of these events.

#### **VI. Island Park Maintenance**

On August 24<sup>th</sup> the Board and volunteers held a morning event to remove spotted knapweed and

autumn olive from Island Park. Currently, work needs to be done to spread the latest batch of wood chips and to clean up the stairway on the Chisholm Street side of the Island.

Terry heard from the intern at MSU who was in town to check on the insect traps they have placed around Island Park again this year. Terry will share their report on the beetles found in the traps once he has the MSU report.

Tom said he'll try to find enough helpers to spread the remainder of the wood chips and help with removing more of the autumn olive. He'll send an email to let other volunteers know a date.

#### VII. Additional Remarks from the Table

Tom wondered if we can block the illegal trail up the steep hill near the front stairway. It is being used extensively now and will undoubtedly be used for sledding in the winter. That area is beginning to erode badly. Perhaps we can again block that area with woody debris.

Judy has not yet heard if the grant application to CFNEM for the aquatic Weed "Whackers" has been granted. Subsequent to the meeting, news came that the application for \$2,400 had been awarded.

Catherine noted that she saw a pair of trumpeters with a cygnet near the Island Park Bridge last week. That is good news as it was believed no cygnets had survived this year.

Boris has seen an increase in the number of blue herons in the sanctuary this year, too.

#### VIII. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary Board will be on October 21, 2021 via Zoom. Terry asked that Tom again send out the Zoom connection to the Board.

#### IX. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by the Chair at 4:32 p.m.

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