

**Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary Board Minutes  
July 21, 2022  
Zoom Meeting**

**Members Present:**

Terry Gougeon, Tom Orth, Vernie Nethercut, Elizabeth Littler, Boris Gerber, Judy Kalmanek  
Resource Advisor Catherine Stedman

Prior to the meeting an email was received from Susie Austin who declined being re-appointed to the Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary Board. Susie cited her commitment to home and work conditions for her decision. She asked to continue receiving the agenda and minutes from the Board.

**Members Absent:** Karen Enterline, Roger Witherbee,  
City Staff: City Planning Development and Zoning Director Montiel Birmingham

**I. Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Terry Gougeon at 4:02 p.m.

**II. Approval of Minutes of June 16, 2022**

A motion was made by Vernie Nethercut, seconded by Boris Gerber and carried that the minutes of June 16, 2022 be approved as written.

**III. Additions to the Agenda**

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

**IV. City Update**

In Montiel's absence, Judy read an email from Montiel who reported that she is awaiting a reply from Karen Enterline about whether she wishes to continue on the AWS Board. Montiel is beginning to update the city zoning in conjunction with NEMCOG and is awaiting input from Huron Pines about the landscaping/planting sections.

**V. River Center Update**

Terry and Judy had met earlier in the month to discuss the possibility of the River Center Board (TBRC) returning to committee status under the AWS Board. The loss of two members of each board prompted the meeting. The idea of one board was discussed at the TBRC meeting on July 11, 2022. The TBRC Board suggested several people; three of them are interested in becoming members of TBRC whose bylaws state that the board shall have between 8 and 11 members. For the time being both boards shall remain intact. It was suggested that Montiel advertise for members for the AWS Board and Vernie agreed to mention the need in her media article for July. Members had been notified by mail that the grant application for \$19,600 to complete the final 20% of the engineering/architectural drawings had been awarded by USDA-RD on July 5, 2022.

## **VI. Artist in Residence**

Terry and Judy Geogon will host the welcoming pot luck supper for this year's Artist-in-Residence, Emily Drew-Yates. The date for the welcoming dinner will be on August 11<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. Terry will send out an email closer to the date asking people what dish they will bring and give directions to his home.

## **VII. Island Park Maintenance**

Terry has scheduled a spotted knapweed pull on Island Park for August 4<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. The Youth Volunteer Corps will help. Vernie agreed to ask for volunteers for that date in her article. There is one space left for a bench on Island Park. The two already installed are nicely placed and are being used. The board agreed that the third allowable bench will be placed at the Southeast. The June minutes note: "One of the benches could be either to refurbish the one at the Southeast section of the wildflower meadow looking out toward St. Anne's towers or to remove it and install a new one there". The Board agreed in June that no more than four benches will be allowed on Island Park.

## **IX. Additional Remarks from the Table**

Tom noted that the cattail invasion is becoming more pronounced in the western portion of the sanctuary. He will contact the Loyola crew (Drew and Shane) to see if their drones can do a flyover to document the movement/spread. He will find out, as well, when they plan to come for another work day on the cattails.

Judy will contact Steve Woods at Huron Pines regarding another frogbit/cattail event to continue with the removal moving west toward the condos.

Catherine reported that the pump supplying water to Duck Park was fixed and then a pipe was discovered broken. Consequently, there is still no water at Duck Park. Besides harming the gardens due to lack of water, there is a state law mandating that kayakers wash their kayaks/canoes when they remove them from the water to control the spread of invasive species. Perhaps, in the meantime a sump pump can be acquired to get water to the gardens. Judy will email Montiel to see what kind of permanent solution is needed which may need input from the hospital.

Vernie and others noted that folks looking for information about the AWS have difficulty finding it on the City website. Maybe the information should be listed under City Parks. Judy will contact Montiel to learn if this is possible.

## **X. Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary Board will be August 18, 2022 at 4:00 p.m.

## **XI. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned by the chair at 4:54 p.m.

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