

Antrim Creek Natural Area

Jerroll Drenth, Chairman

Jacob Veenstra

Betty Hoffmann

Al Hurd

Carl Veenstra

May 15, 2013

Minutes

Members Present: Al Hurd, Jerroll Drenth, Carl Veenstra, Jake Veenstra, and Betty Hoffmann

Members Absent:

Others Present: Joe Meyers, Rich Hannon, and Mark Stone

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Public Comment

Discussion ensued over the road in the north entrance being a County road.

3. Review of Minutes

Motion by Jake Veenstra, supported by Al Hurd, to approve the May 2, 2012 minutes as presented. Motion carried – unanimous.

4. Educational Proposal for Antrim Creek Natural Area

Jerroll Drenth spoke on the potential educational programs at ACNA. Mark Stone spoke on the history of the natural area and how they could partner with GRNA to produce the educational programs.

Rich Hannon handed out a proposal to provide educational programs at ACNA (attached).

Motion by Carl Veenstra, supported by Betty Hoffmann, to approve the Grass River Natural Area Proposal to provide educational classes at Antrim Creek Natural Area at a cost not to exceed \$360.00. Motion carried – unanimous.

The Committee requested a fall meeting to evaluate the success of the educational programs.

5. Various Matters

Discussion ensued over the condition of the roads at ACNA. Discussion ensued over having the company that graded the road in 2012, re-gravel and grade the road.

Motion by Carl Veenstra, supported by Jake Veenstra, to authorize the Parks Manager re-gravel and grade the ACNA driveways. Motion carried – unanimous.

6. Public/Member Comment

None.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.



Education Proposal for Antrim Creek Natural Area

Grass River Natural Area, Inc. (GRNA) is pleased to offer the following proposal regarding a collaborative education project with the Antrim Creek Natural Area (ACNA). We suggest conducting a pilot program for the 2013 summer season.

EDUCATION PROGRAM (GRNA)

GRNA Naturalist, Arlene Westhoven, will conduct one program per month that will focus on the unique features, plants and history of the Antrim Creek Natural Area. Each program will include a walk and an activity relevant to the topic.

June: Shifting Sands – we will answer the following questions using models, charts, and a hike to observe the different formations of the dune.

- What is a dune, how is it formed?
What is the profile of a dune?
- How does Antrim Creek link the inland habitat to the shore of the bay?
- What unique features are part of this interface?
- What adaptations do plants and animals have that allow them to live in this habitat.

July: The Ecology of Dune Plants – Using plant identification charts, we will hike to identify and observe the plant life of Antrim Creek Nature Preserve. We will then illustrate a plant profile of Antrim Creek Natural Area.

- How and why does plant life change as we move inland from the shore of the bay?
- Which plants are found only in dune habitats?
- Which plants are more generalized in their habitat preferences?
- Are there invasive species present?
- We will observe two endangered plant species. How are these plants being protected?

Pitcher's Thistle
Lake Huron Tansy

August: Humans and the Antrim Creek Natural Area. Human inhabitants have been an important part of this area for many years.

Antrim Creek Natural Area

Jerroll Drenth, Chairman

Jacob Veenstra

Betty Hoffmann

Al Hurd

Carl Veenstra

October 9, 2013

Minutes

Members Present: Al Hurd, Jerroll Drenth, Jake Veenstra, and Betty Hoffmann

Members Absent: Carl Veenstra

Others Present: Peter Garwood, Eileen Wallick

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Public Comment

None.

3. Review of Minutes

Minutes were not included with the packet. No action taken.

4. Educational Program , Grass River Natural Area (GRNA) Staff

Jerroll Drenth, Chairman, distributed a communication from Melynda Bagley, Education Direct from GRNA, regarding educational sessions held at the Antrim Creek Natural Area (ACNA).

Also attached was an invoice for \$330.00. Mr. Drenth indicated he had already submitted the invoice for payment.

5. Directional Road Signs

Eileen Wallick presented a quote from MDO”T for signs that would be placed on US-31 advertising the ACNA with a directional arrow.

Motion by Jake Veenstra, supported by Al Hurd, to recommend the Board of Commissioner’s approve placing two signs on US-31, one on the north side and one on the south side of Rex Beach Road at a cost of \$1,360.35. Motion carried - unanimous.

6. Road Work

The Committee reviewed a quote from the Antrim County Road Commission to widen the (Dixie) road area at the south and the north entrance of the Park.

The Committee reviewed quotes from 2 contractors for plowing the south entrance of the Park in the winter. This could be an alternative to widening the road by the entrances.

Both proposals are an attempt to give individuals who want to use the Park in the winter a place to park.

Motion by Al Hurd, supported by Betty Hoffman, to recommend the Board of Commissioner’s approve accepting the quote from Boss Landscaping for \$25 per time plowing when there is 4” or more of snow for the 2013-14 winter only with review of the experience for the following winter (2014-15). Motion carried – unanimous.

Mr. Drenth made a proposal that in the spring (April, 2014), we ask for 3 loads of gravel each year, for a 3 year period, to be split between the two entrances (where needed most). The contractor would need to have a mini-grader. The Committee agreed with the proposal.

7. Antrim Creek Natural Area (ACNA) Budget

The Committee reviewed the 2014 proposed budget for the ACNA.

8. Education Program

The following is feedback from the Committee members who attended the programs:

- Confusion regarding starting point (north or south end).
- Too much standing in the hot sun.
- Not enough parking for the Chuck Cleland presentation.

The Committee was interested in having additional education programs next year, but wants to refine the details.

9. Archeological Dig

Betty Hoffman reported that Chuck Cleland is ready to do a dig at the ACNA for the foundation of the first home in Antrim City that was owned by the first settlers in Antrim City, James and Eleanor Orr.

The Committee indicated they would need to know more about the proposal and encouraged a visit at the next meeting from Mr. Cleland.

10. Communication

The Administration Office received an email from Stanley Briggs requesting permission to install an "Earth Cache" in the ACNA. The Committee indicated they needed more information. Mr. Garwood will contact Mr. Briggs to request more detail and invite him to the next meeting.

Mr. Garwood distributed pictures of the Antrim Creek that were delivered to his office by Karen Jones. Mr. Garwood was told by his staff that she and her husband Steve Jones are concerned that the Creek is getting overgrown with vegetation. The Committee indicated that it is a natural area and was interested to know more about the concern.

Eileen Wallick informed the Committee that there are a number of trees that could be dangerous in the ACNA.

Motion by Jake Veenstra, supported by Al Hurd, to recommend the Board of Commissioner's approve tree trimming and maintenance of up to \$1,000.00 out of the Grounds Maintenance at the ACNA. Motion carried – unanimous.

11. Boat Launch Issue

The Committee discussed the issue of a boat launch at the ACNA. It was the consensus of the Committee that the ACNA was not a good place for a regular boat launch. A couple of reasons were:

- The topography (the hill, wetlands, and seeps/springs in the bank).
- It is a natural area. A regular boat launch would change the character.

The Committee is satisfied with the current boat landing for small fishing boats, canoes and kayaks and thought it would improve with increasing water levels.

12. Public/Member Comment

None.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.