

# **Antrim Creek Natural Area Commission**

*Don Miles  
Blaze Budd*

*Jarris Rubingh, Chairman*

*Carl Veenstra  
Lauri Grear*

## **Minutes September, 22 2021**

Members Present: Jarris Rubingh, Carl Veenstra, Don Miles and Lauri Grear

Members absent: Blaze Budd

Others present: James Hunter

### **1. The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM by Jarris Rubingh**

### **2. Public Comment**

None

### **3. Approval of Minutes**

**Motion by Don Miles seconded by Lauri Grear to approve the minutes from the July 21, 2021 meeting with corrections (to remove the previous owners name) and the July 27, 2021 and August 25, 2021 Special Meeting minutes.**

Motion carried unopposed.

### **4. Parks Director Update**

#### **School House**

Report on the purchase of the school house was made to the commission. Update given regarding Building Department's assessment of the building & short term needs. Suggestion made to immediately pursue chimney and roof repair along with installation of security lighting.

Updated Commission on installation of door locks & securing the front door due to damage to the door making it impossible to install a new door lock until the door can be replaced.

**Motion by Don Miles, seconded by Jarris Rubingh to appoint Carl Veenstra & James Hunter to a sub-committee to build & execute a list of priorities for the School House.**

**Motion carried unopposed.**

**Motion by Jarris Rubingh to allow the school house sub-committee to spend up to \$4,000 to secure & fix the schoolhouse for the winter.**

**Motion carried unopposed.**

Welcome sign for the school house discussed. Possibly asking the Grand Traverse Land Conservancy to add one to the ACNA fall order.

#### **Funding, Grants, Universal Access**

Fundraising & other grant opportunities for universal access and trail maintenance was discussed with Universal Access (UA). A roll out beach access similar to the one deployed at the Charlevoix Beach in Charlevoix had been suggested to improve access from the north plot of the ACNA to Lake Michigan. UA also advised there are grant funds available for part time or full time positions for handicapped persons to be employed, possibly at the Natural Area.

#### **ACNA Attendant Report**

Carl Veenstra gave a report regarding his 40 hours worked at the Natural Area and the work completed during that time. This included trail maintenance, dangerous tree removal, road grading, visitor interaction, and trash removal. Mr. Veenstra advised there has been a significant amount of trash being left by citizens in/around the Porta-Johns which he removes 2-3 times a week.

### **Snowplowing**

Advised commission in the past snowplowing was contracted out to Boss Plowing Co. who would plow 2-3 times per season. Due to their schedule, ACNA did not seem a priority.

**Motion by Don Miles, seconded by Lauri Grear for snowplowing to be completed by the Parks Department, with the north road hill to be blocked for regular motor vehicle traffic at the top of the hill to improve safety and protect the roadway and visitors.**

General discussion regarding seasonal sign at the North Entrance. Seasonal road sign used to be posted by the Road Commission but has since been taken down. Sign is needed to advise visitors to use southern drive during the winter.

General discussion led by Mr. Veenstra regarding grooming trails for winter activities to increase snow shoeing, cross country skiing, and hunting access during the cold months. Grooming device was in the Master Plan originally and there is the possibility of a device being donated for use by the Parks Department.

### **Grass River Education Program**

General discussion regarding the education programs held. The educational value of the programming was not questioned but the dates and times held were.

Scheduling was suggested to be done through the Friends group whom are more aware of the busy times & appropriate timing for programming.

Commissioners also wanted the education program fees to be dropped for next year.

## **5. Public Comment**

### **Friends of Antrim County Report**

General discussion regarding making a QR code which links to the ACNA friends group for volunteers to easily sign up for correspondence with the friends group. These could be posted at trail heads to increase access.

Meeting was conducted at the ACNA with the Friends & the Little Grand Traverse Tribe historian. Tour was led by Don Miles and Carl Veenstra. Tribe is very interested in having the story of the indigenous persons who were settled at the ACNA told once the School House opens. There are grants available through the Tribe and more is to come from the relationship the Friends established.

**Motion by Jarris Rubingh, second by Lauri Grear to allow the Friends of Antrim Creek to install donation pipes in the ACNA trail heads.**

**Motion carries unopposed.**

Carl Veenstra made comments regarding the monumental completion of the Natural Area through the acquisition of the School House. He thanked current and past commissioners, fund raisers and all involved past and present with the Natural Area for helping to make it possible.

Adjourned at 8:20.

*The next meeting is scheduled for May 18, 2022.*