

Antrim Creek Natural Area Commission

Don Miles
Blaze Budd

Dave Heeres, Chairman

Carl Veenstra
Lauri Grear

Minutes June 24, 2020

Members: Blaze Budd, Carl Veenstra, Dave Heeres, Lauri Grear, Don Miles

Members absent:

Others present: Keegan (ACD Intern), Wend Warren

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:08 by Jeremy Scott

2. Public Comment

None

3. Organizing, Approval of Minutes

Carl Veenstra nominated Dave Heeres for Chair.

Motion by Carl Veenstra, seconded by Lauri Grear to close nominations and to cast a unanimous ballot for Dave Heeres for Chair of the Antrim Creek Natural Area.

Motion carried – unanimous

Motion by Dave Heeres, seconded by Carl Veenstra, to approve the minutes of July 31, 2019.

Motion carried - unanimous

4. Grass River 2020 Education Proposal

The Commission reviewed the communication regarding the cancellation of 2020 educational programs at ACNA.

5. Discussion: Antrim County Sheriffs Office Presence

Mr. Veenstra informed the Commission about his concern and communication with the County about policing the natural area. Of particular concern was the litter and potential fire danger from paper lanterns. He noted there is an existing State policy against littering that can be enforced. Ms. Grear suggested posting appropriate signage near the beach area.

6. Trail Maintenance

The Commission discussed the proposed partnership with the Antrim Conservation District (ACD) on issues of trail maintenance. Don Miles expressed concern that four (4) hours/week may not be enough. Wendy Warren, ACD District manager, noted her concern about garbage and suggested placement of a garbage can. Members expressed concerns about dumping.

Motion by Don Miles, seconded by Blaze Budd, to recommend the Board of Commissioners amend the contract between Antrim County and the Antrim Conservation District for trail maintenance work at Antrim Creek Natural Area for the remainder of FY2020 at a cost not to exceed \$1,600, with funding to come from GL#234-756-802.

Motion Carried - Unanimous.

7. Plat Book Advertisement (Information Only)

Members discussed the advertisement for the ACNA that will be included in a plat book being published by the Antrim Conservation District in July/August of 2020.

8. Endowment Report (Information Only)

Members discussed the 2019 ACNA endowment report. Mr. Veenstra asked that this be forwarded on to the Endowment Financial oversight committee.

9. Conservation Easement Monitoring Report (Information Only)

Mr. Veenstra expressed concern that the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy (GTRLC) may require something of ACNA in the future.

10. Various Matters

2020 Meeting Dates

There was a consensus to set meeting dates for 2020 as follows:

- Wednesday July 29th at 7:00pm – Township Hall (TBD)
- Wednesday September 23rd 7:00pm – Township Hall (TBD)

Meeting locations are subject to change based on availability of the Banks Township Hall.

Mr. Heeres indicated the end of the culvert is exposed and needs to be addressed. He also asked that a communication be sent to the Antrim County Road Commission requesting they take another look at the retaining wall. The Administration Office will draft a letter to send.

Mr. Veenstra said he was concerned with posts in the parking lot. He recommended replacing the existing wooden barriers with large rocks.

Mr. Miles asked that a discussion regarding blended signage be placed on the next agenda.

Mr. Miles will invite Steve Lauderquest to provide a proposal at the next meeting on blended signage for trails.

11. Public Comment

None

Meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Antrim Creek Natural Area Commission

*Don Miles
Blaze Budd*

Dave Heeres, Chairman

*Carl Veenstra
Lauri Grear*

Minutes July 29, 2020

Members Present: Carl Veenstra, Dave Heeres, Lauri Grear, Don Miles

Members absent: Blaze Budd

Others present: Eileen Wallick, Keegan (ACD Intern), Wendy Warren, Jeremy Scott

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:08pm by Dave Heeres

2. Public Comment

Friends of ACNA looking for board members

3. Organizing, Approval of Minutes

Motion by Carl Veenstra, seconded by Lauri Grear, to approve the minutes of June 24, 2020.

Motion Passed Unanimously

4. Discussion: FY2021 Budget

The Commission reviewed the proposed budget for fiscal year 2021.

Mr. Miles requested to add \$4,500 for Signage based on an estimate from the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy (GTRLC).

Motion by Don Miles, seconded by Carl Veenstra to submit the FY2021 budget with the addition of \$4,500 for signage.

Motion Passed Unanimously

5. Discussion: Blended Signage – Steve Lagerquist

Steve Lauderquest from GTRLC spoke to the commission about blended signage. He estimated cost would be approximately \$1,000 per kiosk and about \$80 for direction signs. He will work with GTRLC to get signs designed for September 23 meeting.

6. Discussion: Updating Historic Information

Mr. Veenstra said Lindy Dickerson, the unofficial historian for the natural area, has passed. He said would like to see a website to keep historical information and recommended working with the Ellsworth Historical Society to gather and maintain a record.

7. Various Matters

Motion by Dave Heeres, seconded by Lauri Grear, to approve purchasing 20 YDS of gravel for placement on the South road and 20 to 30 YDS of gravel for placement on the North road as budget allows.

Motion Passed Unanimously

Mr. Veenstra asked whether the County needs a signed waiver for him to volunteer so he is not liable in the event a natural area patron is injured. The Administration Office will contact legal counsel.

Mr. Miles said he will have a bunch of woodchips he can put at the kiosk in the North parking lot.

Mr. Veenstra said soil erosion cloth is flopping around in the lake and should be addressed.

Mr. Veenstra would like to know how much is in the ACNA Endowment account. Administration Office staff will contact him once that answer is found.

Barnes Park Manager Eileen Wallick was directed to pull the wooden guards out at the South Parking Lot and place large rocks in their place.

Mr. Veenstra said the Friends of ACNA is in limbo. It needs to assign a board and adopt bylaws.

8. Public Comment

None.

The next meeting is scheduled for September 23, 2020.

Meeting adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

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Antrim Creek Natural Area Commission

*Don Miles
Blaze Budd*

Dave Heeres, Chairman

*Carl Veenstra
Lauri Grear*

Minutes September 23, 2020

Members Present: Dave Heeres, Don Miles, Carl Veenstra, Blaze Budd, Lauri Grear

Members absent: None

Others present: Jeremy Scott, Keegan Angerer, Eileen Wallick

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Dave Heeres

2. Public Comment

Department of Natural Resources Sgt. Webster asked if there is anything that the DNR can do to support ACNA.

3. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Lauri Grear, seconded by Carl Veenstra, to approve the minutes of July 29, 2020.

Motion Passes Unanimously.

4. Discussion: Blended Signage

The group was made aware that the request for funding of signage passed the County's budget process. Keegan Angerer suggested invasive species signs and boot scrubs might make for a good addition to the signage plan.

5. Various Matters

Gravel Purchase

Twenty (20) yards were purchased earlier in the year with ten (10) yards being spread at each entrance. Mr. Veenstra suggested an additional 10-20 yards at the end of the North entrance could create a level platform for a safer exit for visitors. Mr. Heeres requested that Keegan trim back extra at the entrances.

Motion by Don Miles, seconded by Blaze Budd to purchase an additional twenty (20) yards for placement at the north entrance.

Motion passes unanimously.

Volunteer Waiver

The Commission was informed that copies of volunteer waivers had requested from the Regional Conservancy.

ACNA Endowment Account

There was discussion about the Schoolhouse property as a future purchase.

Communications

Antrim County Road Commission

Mr. Veenstra asked how the North road construction was originally funded. There was additional concern expressed about the condition of the North road hill. Mr. Miles let everyone know that there are existing plans for a road connecting the North and South entrances.

Heather Smith – The Watershed Center

Anyone interested in patrolling beaches for dead animals can contact the Watershed Center for training.

Mr. Angerer informed the commission that a lot of dog food bags have been left by visitors.

Mr. Veenstra indicated Friends of Antrim Creek is still working on getting a board together. He recommended placing yard signs at entrance to solicit additional interest.

Mr. Veenstra said he would like to see the rest of the landscape fabric to be removed from water's edge on the North side.

8. Public Comment

None.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 21, 2021

Meeting adjourned at 7:56