

Antrim Creek Natural Area Commission

*Don Miles
Jarris Rubingh*

Douglas Seaney, Chairman

*Carl Veenstra, Vice Chair
Lauri Grear*

Minutes March 23, 2023

Members Present: Jarris Rubingh, Carl Veenstra, Douglas Seaney

Members absent: Lauri Grear, Don Miles

Others present: Anna Hall, Janet Koch

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Jarris Rubingh

2. Public Comment

Jemima Rubingh commented on her enjoyment of educational nature programs and the Antrim Creek Natural Area.

3. Organizational Meeting

Election of Officers

Mr. Rubingh nominated Mr. Seaney.

Motion by Mr. Rubingh, seconded by Mr. Veenstra to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Mr. Seaney as Chair.

Motion Passes, Yes- 3, No- 0, Absent- 2

The Chair took over running the meeting.

Motion by Mr. Seaney seconded by Mr. Rubingh to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Mr. Veenstra as Vice Chair.

Motion Passes, Yes- 3, No- 0, Absent- 2

2023 Meeting Dates and Times

Thursday, May 25, 2023, 7pm – at ACNA Schoolhouse

Thursday, July 27, 2023, 7pm – at ACNA Schoolhouse

Thursday, September 28, 2023, 7pm – at ACNA Schoolhouse

Tuesday, November 21, 2023, 7pm - at Barnes Park Office

4. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Mr. Rubingh seconded by Mr. Veenstra to approve the minutes from the November 30, 2022 meeting as presented.

Motion Passes, Yes- 3, No- 0, Absent- 2

5. Grass River Natural Area Educational Programming

Mr. Veenstra stated that the Friends of ACNA group may have volunteers that could implement similar educational programs.

Discussion of selecting one Grass River Natural Area program, and the possibility of combining the “Health of the Creek” and “Wetland Dune Walk” programs.

Motion by Mr. Rubingh, seconded by Mr. Veenstra, to allow the Chairman to communicate with Grass River Natural Area regarding the selection of one Grass River Natural Area Educational program for a total cost of \$150.

Motion Passes, Yes- 3, No- 0, Absent- 2

6. Parks Director Update

Maintenance Update

Antrim County employee Carl Veenstra has worked on clearing/widening trails and removing dead/hazardous trees.

Janet Koch, Deputy County Administrator, provided copies of the budget report and purchasing policy, and initiated discussion on budgeted improvements at Antrim Creek Natural Area.

The purchase of wood chips was discussed, as was the future budgeting of a wood chipper.

Signage Update

Motion by Mr. Rubingh, seconded by Mr. Veenstra to approve paying the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy, not to exceed \$1600, for kiosk and signage.

Motion Passes, Yes- 3, No- 0, Absent- 2

Schoolhouse Grant Update

Anna Hall, Parks Director, stated that the grant application to the Country School Association of America was not selected for funding, and the Forest Area Federal Credit Union Community Grant recipient will be announced this month.

Meeting attendees discussed the possibility of applying for a trust fund grant.

7. Schoolhouse Update

Mr. Veenstra said he spoke with a representative at the Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation regarding the ACNA Endowment Fund. He also said he'd met with a representative from the Antrim County Building Department to discuss the schoolhouse restoration.

8. Various Matters

Discussion on potential ADA parking spaces near the beach at the ACNA and the concrete slabs.

9. Public Comment

No comments.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for May 25th, 2023 at 7 pm.