Members Present: Duane Hampton, Chair; Steve Kohler, Vice Chair; Tom Sauber, Natural Areas Manager; Bonnie Alkema; Tyler Bassett; Mark Frever; Lauri Holmes; John Kreuzer; David Lemberg; James Penner; Paul Scott; Cybelle Shattuck; Marnie Twynham

Members Excused: Kay Chase, Council Secretary; Pete Strazdas; Sharon Dever

Guests: Judy Huxmann

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ZOOM ROLL CALL.
   • A quorum of members was present, and the meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m.

II. EDITING AND ADOPTION OF AGENDA FOR NOVEMBER 11, 2021.
   • Add under new business: Discussion of a proposed ALPA project, and the extension of the no-parking area on Winchell Avenue and how that affects the Winchell entrance to the Preserve.
   • Add under old business: Discussion about the bid for the storm water project in the Preserve. An update regarding lights on the soccer field at WMU; a discussion about a policy for lighting as it relates to the Preserve, and an update about the Garlic Mustard pull.
   • Mr. Bassett, supported by Mr. Scott, moved approval of the agenda as amended. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

III. MARK KIESER UPDATE ON DISAPPOINTING BID ON STORMWATER TREATMENT SYSTEM.
   • Mr. Kieser’s schedule changed at the last minute, and he was unable to attend the ALPMC meeting.

IV. EDITING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 14, 2021.
   • The following changes were requested: Page 4, Terry’s last name is Simmons. Aaron’s last name is Dykstra. The southeast trail is already done; that trail is northeast of Parkview.
   • Ms. Alkema, supported by Ms. Holmes, moved approval of the October Minutes as amended. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

V. OLD BUSINESS.
   a. Further thoughts on John Kreuzer’s conversation with Haji Tehrani?
      • The conversation between Mr. Kreuzer and Mr. Tehrani was not hopeful regarding the possible outcome for Mr. Tehrani’s property, which is adjacent to the Preserve.
      • There were no further comments on possible actions the Council could take at this point. It was suggested that the Council could wait for a communication from Mr. Tehrani’s attorney.

   b. Preserving the Preserve. Signs, parking lots, bike racks, needed maintenance, boom boxes, shadow boxes.
      • Ms. Shattuck inquired about the possibility of putting a sign at BTR2 (business, technology and research park #2) stating that extra parking is available at that location on the weekends when the business at BTR2 is not open. That might alleviate issues with parking on Parkview Avenue and Drake Road.
      • It looks like people are already starting to park across the street at BTR2, it might be safer. There is a median on Drake, and it is not too hard to cross Drake Rd. to get to the Preserve.
      • There is a historical marker and parking space at BTR2. There is a small foot path that goes down into the woods in BTR2, there are no signs indicating that people can’t use it.
      • It was suggested that someone communicate with the WMU Foundation about the possibility of parking at BTR2, since that is their property. Ms. Shattuck offered to send an e-mail inquiry. Mr. Frever suggested contacting Jeff Breneman or Kara Wood at WMU.
• In addition, the Council should look at getting a crosswalk and pedestrian crossing sign, otherwise it could be an invitation to an accident.
• Ms. Alkema spoke to the City of Kalamazoo Traffic Engineer when they were doing work on Greenleaf Terrace. She was advised that the crosswalk must have ADA compliant curbs, which it does not have in that location.
• BTR2 is West of Drake Rd, in Oshtemo Township. The Preserve is East of Drake Rd. in the City of Kalamazoo. Ms. Huxmann suggested assigning someone to look into any potential multi-jurisdictional issues that might occur with crossing Drake Rd. at that point.

c. Has the Falk memorial tree been replaced? With what?
• The tree has not been replaced yet. It can be replaced with another Chinquapin Oak. The replacement tree could be planted in a slightly different location in case there were any microbial issues that caused the demise of the original tree.

d. The beaver deceiver requires frequent maintenance due to clogging. That will get harder to do as it cools down. Was there a meeting of the subcommittee to discuss what’s next? Subcommittee: Lemberg, MacNellis, Holmes, Sauber, 2 Highpointe residents.
• Mr. MacNellis, Mr. Holmes, and some residents from Highpointe helped clear debris out of the beaver deceiver. Ms. Holmes mentioned that it is a good idea to clean out the deceiver in the a.m. If it is done in the evening, the beavers will undue most of what was done by the next morning.
• The beavers are not deceived. They have not managed to completely block the pipe from the cage in the bay to the spillway. The water has flowed in various volumes depending on when the crew removed debris.
• It appears that the run-off from BTR2 that happened a year ago from last June brought sludge etc. into the lake. The sludge sank into the lake as it moved west to east toward the spillway. The culvert pipe gets a build-up with fine particles of silt as heavier particles get deposited in the rest of the lake. There are 12 inches of silt at the east end of the lake.
• The volunteers have been shoveling out the silt. It comes up to their knees and it feels like quicksand. At this point the water is flowing and the lake has gone down 8 to 12 inches. The trees that should not have been standing in water are no longer in water. The beavers are very active now, and they have attacked an Oak tree on the south side of Asylum Lake.
• Tom Holmes and the other volunteers have been out once or twice a week for the last three or four weeks to remove silt. Hopefully, as the weather gets cooler, there will be less beaver activity. Mr. MacNellis had suggested extending the pipe out into the lake so there is less sediment.
• Mr. Hampton commented that once the lake is iced over, the maintenance won’t occur, but accumulation of sediment might continue to occur. There will be a need to look at this situation again in the early spring.
• Mr. Lemberg referred to the subcommittee that was formed last month. They tried to figure out when everyone on the subcommittee could take a look at the deceiver. Mr. MacNellis went to look at the beaver deceiver and he will make a decision on what needs to be done next.
• Sediment seems to be more of an issue than the beaver deceiver. It should be a beaver excluder to exclude them from the mouth of the culvert.
• If silt continues to accumulate in the inflow, dredging will need to happen with something to help keep the sludge out. It might be helpful to extend the culvert further out in the lake, so it won’t be impacted by the silt. The deceiver could be reconstructed to exclude the beavers.
• Mr. Bassett concurred that sediment is the issue, not the beavers. He offered to help with the silt removal. He questioned if the silt build-up would continue to occur. Mark Kieser might have some insight; he watched the sediment pour into the lake and he understands how that works. Based on physics, if the silt removal continues, the issue should be resolved eventually.
Mr. Kohler advised that the silt build-up has not been an issue in the past and is associated with the sedimentation event a year ago. This should not be a recurring issue if we clean it out. A fire hydrant nearby to supply a massive pulse of water would help clear out the sediment but there is not a hydrant available.

Mr. Hampton offered to install a staff gauge in the lake bottom to measure how high the lake is on that gauge. The gauge would go by the deceiver, just before the sediment would enter the pipe. Tom Holmes volunteered to take the measurements every week or two, as suggested, and requested information on how to do that.

Mr. Lemberg stated that the initial blockage might have raised the lake level and caused slippage that raised the silt level. Mr. Kohler was not aware of any efforts to measure the lake levels. The sediment came in at the west end of the lake from the main sedimentation event. It didn’t settle out by the time it reached the culvert, which supports the theory that the current blockage might be caused by slippage.

Discussion followed with regard to measuring the silt. Mr. Kohler suggested using plexiglass to make a coring device to take the measurements. The device should be about 2” in diameter; he will check his lab for supplies. Mr. Holmes agreed to take the silt measurements.

e. The financial report.

Two items late in October didn’t show up on the report, including a charge from Wildtype for $20,000. The money allocated for Wildtype is now gone. Mr. Sauber can send a breakdown of the charges.

There is $7,380 remaining for trail management. The latest charge for the trail project was $13,500. It cost more because there was a charge for removing the soil from the Preserve and taking it to another location. Mr. Sauber is not sure where the soil went; landscape companies take soil and repurpose it.

Positive comments were made about the rerouted trail, but people are still using the old one. Mr. Sauber stated that his crew totally blocked off the old trail with four-foot-tall brush. There are water bars along that trail.

f. Bill Schneider walked through half of the Preserve and saw no evidence of Oak wilt. His crew will do that survey again next year. He suggested that we do a quick, comprehensive tree survey next year.

Mr. Hampton, and Tom and Lauri Holmes met Mr. Schneider at the Preserve. They saw no evidence of Oak Wilt, but they did not look at the whole Preserve. Next year, Mr. Schneider can have his crew do a more comprehensive survey.

Mr. Bassett mentioned that there has been some discussion about monitoring protocol for remote sensing. The DNR was developing that protocol, and he can provide updates later.

Mr. Schneider had good things to say about the diversity of the Preserve and he had management ideas. He did a quick survey of what kind of trees are there and where they are. That can provide a good idea of how things are going.

In 2008, Mr. Bassett did a comprehensive survey of large canopy Oaks in the Preserve. He recorded the diameter of the trees and mapped them all. There is a shape file with that information in WMU’s records.

g. Oak tree age dating – what subcommittee would do this?

It might be too late in the year to do this. Mr. Bassett suggested determining the age of a few trees with cores to verify how old they are. He recruited a co-worker, Jesse, to core some trees.

A resistograph could also be used to determine the age of the trees. He will work with Landscape services to use the resistograph on most, or all, of the old, large trees to figure out how old they are. As the weather gets colder there is risk of breaking the core so this will likely happen in the spring.

Mr. Sauber offered to talk with the supervisor who has the resistograph. It might take some time before it is available for use by the Council.
Mr. Frever stated that the resistograph detects decaying wood; he was not sure if it would provide the information the Council is looking for. Arborists use the resistograph around campus to look for decaying wood in trees.

The girth of the tree will help determine the age of the tree. The calculations should be fairly consistent among species. It is still warm enough now for the coring to be done.

**h. It is time yet to revise the Management Plan?**

- The priority has increased regarding the revised Management Plan; Mr. Bassett will try to work on it this winter. There is a bottleneck as far as defining the vision for how it is laid out, but that is on his to-do list.
- Ms. Alkema suggested hiring Justin Heslinga to assist with the Management Plan. He helped at Parkview Hills and did not charge a lot of money. Mr. Bassett could communicate with Mr. Heslinga to let him know what needs to be done.
- There is already a budget of $10,000 available for development of the Management Plan. Mr. Bassett suggested splitting the funds between Mr. Heslinga and Mr. Schneider. Mr. Hampton stated that Mr. Frever should be included in the communications with the contractors to make sure the transaction is legitimate from the WMU perspective. Mr. Sauber suggested talking with Jackie Michels at WMU.

**i. Bid on storm water work for Preserve.**

- The bid provided by the contractor was more than what was anticipated. The options at this point are to rebid the project or accept the bid that was provided. The pandemic and corresponding issues with supplies might account for the increase in price.
- Mr. Sauber will attend a meeting on Wednesday to discuss the bid. It would be against protocol for him to talk about certain details of the bid.
- Jackie Michels and Tom Sauber compiled the information on the bid. They found a gap between what John Jacobson presented and the actual bid numbers. Mr. Frever questioned if the Council should approach the WMU Foundation and budget more money to get the storm water project done with the current bid, or should the scope of work be adjusted, and the project rebid next year?
- Discussion followed regarding the protocol and details about the bid. Mr. Kreuzer mentioned that this is not a WMU funded project, it is Council-funded project, so the Council should have access to details about the bid.
- Mr. Sauber stated that the bids are handled through WMU, the Council can talk with Jackie Michels. University protocols must be followed. Mr. Frever suggested talking with Kieser & Associates about the discrepancy.
- Jackie Michels advised Mr. Frever that, until the Council decides to either accept or not accept the bid, the details of the bid cannot be revealed. The Council needs to make a decision as to whether or not to proceed with the bid. If not, they will restructure the bid or ask Kieser & Associates to restructure the scope of the bid.
- Council members expressed concern that if the Council is paying for the project, they should be able to review the details of the bid prior to taking a vote. Mr. Sauber stated that he sent the final numbers to the subcommittee a while ago.
- Mr. Kreuzer was part of the subcommittee. He recalled receiving information stating that only one bid was submitted, and it was twice the amount of the budget for this project. He did not recall receiving any other details.
- Kieser & Associates is usually high with their proposed budgets, for them to be 50 percent low is unusual. Kieser & Associates will be involved in the meeting next Wednesday, and they will need the bid details in order to discuss next steps.
- Ms. Holmes emphasized the need for the Council to have more details so they understand what they are paying for. Mr. Sauber will follow up with Jackie Michels first thing Friday morning. It should not be an issue for the Council to wait until spring to rebid the project if that is what they decide to do.
• Mr. Hampton suggested having an e-mail vote, based on what Jackie says, as to whether or not to accept the bid or defer to January and rebid.
• Ms. Alkema suggested talking with Mark Kieser for additional information. Rebidding the project and going through the same scenario is not what the Council is aiming for.
• The money for the stormwater project is encumbered but not for the amount the contractor is asking for. Mr. Frever stated that the money is in a fund 23 account which belongs to the Council. The Council has not paid for the project, but the money is sitting in an account.
• Mr. Kieser has to look at the bid to compare it with his estimate and figure out why there is a discrepancy. If the bid doesn’t reflect reality something has to be reconciled. Mr. Kieser will meet with Jackie Michels next week to discuss the stormwater project.

j. Discussion regarding lights at the WMU soccer field.
• Ms. Alkema spoke with Attorney Dan McGlinn who is a friend of the soccer coach. The coach was surprised when someone approached him about the lights. Mr. McGlinn confirmed that a plan exists and there is money for the lights.
• The Council needs to be prepared to state what they feel about additional lights in the area. It would be helpful if the Council had a policy to deal with lighting issues.
• Mr. Hampton commented that not all lights are created equal. They should put in lights that are the least disruptive to the area and to the Preserve.
• Mr. Lemberg referred to the dark skies’ guidelines. The lights could be installed so that all the light is on the soccer field and not elsewhere. The Council could approach the City Planner and tie into the existing protections that they recently revised. The revisions include protection of natural areas from external lights. Ms. Alkema will follow up with the City Planner.
• There was a prior discussion about the possibility of planting evergreens along the west side of the Preserve to dampen the light pollution from the business, technology, and research park (BTR2) across Drake Road, but some of the comments were not favorable regarding that option.

VI. PROJECT/SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS.
a. Application for Preserve use?
• There were no applications to use the Preserve.
• Mr. Sauber received an e-mail from Susan Larner asking if someone would do a 45-minute presentation to the master gardeners. Mr. Bassett would like to do the presentation, but he is too busy at this point. If someone does a presentation about the Preserve, it would be nice to have it on the website or available for presentation to groups who are interested.
• The e-mail was unclear as whether the master gardeners were interested in the history of Asylum Lake, or other details about the Preserve. Mark Hoffman has the history of Asylum Lake, but that would be the cultural history not the plants.
• Mr. Sauber will get more details and maybe reach out to Mr. Hoffman. David Nesius knows about the plants in the Preserve; he runs the Facebook page for Asylum Lake.

b. Signage Committee – prospective signs about the stormwater treatment project.
• postponed

c. The trails committee: OCBA trail improvements status?
• postponed

VII. NEW BUSINESS.
a. Proposed ALPA project.
Ms. Holmes stated that the ALPA is proposing to plant native plants in the springtime, where some invasive plants were removed from the Preserve, not far from the Parkview entrance. She will provide an update in the future.

b. Extension of no-parking area on Winchell Avenue.
- The city has forbidden parking down Winchell Avenue. People can’t park near the Winchell entrance to the Preserve. The no-parking rule was instituted to make the area safer for bicycle traffic. Also, vehicular traffic is fast in that area; the no-parking rule was a measure to calm the traffic.
- The ALPA suggested installing a speed bump to slow traffic, as an alternative to the no parking rule. This is an important concern because it limits access to the Preserve. The Council could express concern, but they are not meeting again until January.
- Mr. Sauber mentioned that there is no white line in front of the Winchell entrance to the Preserve. It appears that eight cars or more could park there. He will contact the City of Kalamazoo about this issue.
- Ms. Alkema knows the Traffic Engineer, Dennis Randolph. It is possible that no one thought about the Preserve when they passed the no parking rule.
- There is no parking by the Winchell school except to pick up kids. There has been an issue with vehicles parking on both sides of the street. The no-parking rule is about traffic calming not bike lanes. There have been incidents with people being hit by vehicles. Three people were hit, and one almost died. Speed bumps are effective. Mr. Sauber will talk to the Traffic Engineer.
- The sidewalks do not extend down Winchell to the Preserve entrance and there is concern about walking on the street in that location.

c. ALPMC elections. Our bylaws, Article 5, say “Officers shall be elected in the fall of odd-numbered years.” But don’t say how we should run Council elections. Let’s use Roberts Rules of Order for that.
- Mr. Hampton referred to Roberts Rules and the need to allow people’s opinions to be heard regarding the election. He stated that Pete Strazdas is willing to serve as the Chairperson for the Council and Kay Chase is willing to serve as the Secretary. Neither one of them were at the November meeting. Candidates need to be members of the Council in order to hold a Council office.
- Concern was expressed about the candidates being absent from the meeting if a vote it taken.
- Steve Kohler is the current Vice Chair. He stated that he is no longer a member of the department he is supposed to be representing. Also, he has served since 2004, and should not have been on the Council for the last seven years.
- A suggestion was made to wait until January for the election of officers, but the Bylaws say officers shall be elected in the fall of odd years.
- Ms. Shattuck stated that she doesn’t have time to be Vice Chair at this point. It was suggested that Sharon Dever might be interested in the Vice Chair position, but she was not present at the meeting.

d. Nominations for council chair (Pete Strazdas), vice-chair, and secretary (Kay Chase), and from the floor.
- Mr. Hampton suggested that the Council members should e-mail their votes for Chairperson and Council Secretary to the Recording Secretary, who will tally the votes and report back to the Chairperson. He will contact Ms. Dever to find out if she is interested in serving as Vice Chair.

VIII. NEXT ONLINE MEETING.
- The next meeting is scheduled for January 13, 2022. The dates for the garlic mustard pull can be scheduled at that time.

IX. COUNCIL/STAFF COMMENTS.
- None

X. PUBLIC COMMENTS.
None

**XI. ADJOURNMENT.**
- The meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm.