*Thunder Bay Audubon Society thunderbayaudubonsociety.com*

*April 3, 2013*

Several members of the Thunder Bay Audubon Society met at the TBAS Min Hunt Nature Preserve/Sanctuary on Shubert Highway. Thanks to Chuck Tetzlaff for refurnishing the Min Hunt sign. Members brushed out the path all the way to the apple orchard (about .5 mile). Arnie Pokorzynski brought six blue bird houses and one American kestrel house to be placed in the orchard area. Several older blue bird houses were cleaned out. Kudos to Arnie, Chuck Tetzlaff, and Lynn Field for digging the post holes in difficult terrain! About 4:00 the group returned to Chuck and Karen Tetzlaff’s house on Shubert Highway for refreshments and a brief meeting.

The business meeting was called to order by President Linda Klemens at 4:15.

Linda gave an overview of the history of the acquisition of the Min Hunt property. It was transferred from Paul Hunt in July, 1973. It is named after his wife, Emily (Min) Hunt. He retained oil, gas and mineral rights, hunting rights, and right to apple crops until his death. In 2000, Jeff Shepler (friend of Paul’s) had rights to hunt with two friends in November in exchange for keeping trail clear, the apple trees pruned, post signs and check for poachers. The agreement was terminated after multiple hunting parties were accessing the property. Since then, members have checked the property a few times a year, but usually, just the parcel closet to Shubert Highway.

Discussion has taken place over the last several years about the purpose of the Min Hunt property. Should it be open to the public for biking/hiking/etc? Should the property be posted? If so, what should the signs say? Previous concerns about liability if someone should get hurt on property has resulted in no action being taken. Linda said she contacted the Michigan Audubon Society and was told that if the property is posted, the group would then fall under the Recreational Trespass Law which is protection from litigation. Today, the small group agreed that we should pursue making the property available for public use. However, we tabled a vote until more members could attend.

The property boundaries need to be determined. An old survey was located and a member who is in California knows where they are. He will help us mark the boundaries and Chuck Tetzlaff will determine GPS coordinates.

Last fall, Chuck and Karen Tetzlaff repaired and replaced the signs on Shubert Highway that designated the area as TBAS property. Most of them are brittle from years of use and will need to be replaced. The group discussed possible verbiage on new signs, approximately 4.5 x 7 to be posted on trees. The following was suggested:

TBAS Min Hunt Wildlife Sanctuary

No Unauthorized Motorized Vehicles, Hunting, Trapping, Camping, Campfires,

or Specimen Collecting. Pets Must be Leashed.

Leave Nothing But Footprints

Take Nothing But Pictures

(spacing not correct)

Arnie Pokorzynski moved that up to $250 be allotted for the purchase of signs. Seconded by Marilyn Ross. Motion unanimously passed. Karen Tetzlaff will get printing estimates and go with the most cost effective choice.

An overview of other TBAS property was given: Cow Island, Fletcher Pond, 27 acres on Long Lake Creek

Meeting was adjourned at 5:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Tetzlaff

TBAS Secretary