



Muskoka WATERSHED COUNCIL

Minutes

Friday, June 21, 2019
1:00 pm

Limberlost Forest & Wildlife Reserve
1088 Buck Lake Landing, Huntsville, Ontario P1H 2J6

Present

Kevin Trimble (Chair)
Chris Cragg
Pete LeMoine
Andrew Struthers

Patricia Arney
Louise Cragg
Michael Peppard

Lisa Barry
Caroline Konarzewski
Peter Sale

MWC & DMM Staff

Christy Doyle
Teslyn Heron

Rebecca Willison
Jake Knowles

Breeanna Campbell
Michael Peitz

Speakers

Gareth Cockwell
Limberlost Forest & Wildlife Reserve

Community

Paul Arney

Cathy Oakden

Welcome

Kevin Trimble called the meeting to order at 1:10 pm. He thanked all of the volunteers who attended the lunch preceding the meeting. Kevin thanked Gareth Cockwell for hosting the lunch and meeting and invited him to give a presentation about the Limberlost Forest & Wildlife Reserve at a future MWC meeting.

Confirmation of Minutes

MOTION by Peter Sale, seconded by Pete LeMoine

THAT the minutes of the Muskoka Watershed Council meeting dated March 22, 2019 be approved.

CARRIED

Correspondence

MWC submitted a letter to the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry regarding Muskoka Watershed Flood Mitigation.

Presentations

Limberlost Forest & Wildlife Reserve – Gareth Cockwell

Christy Doyle introduced Gareth, who presented a brief overview of the Limberlost Forest & Wildlife Reserve.

The Limberlost Forest and Wildlife Reserve is a publicly accessible private year-round wilderness area with twenty lakes and more than 10,000 unspoiled acres of mixed forest near Huntsville. The private forest reserve contains more than 70 km of hiking, biking, skiing and snowshoeing trails made available to the public at no charge.

Limberlost practices a form of land management called Conscientious Forest Management, which focuses on ensuring the sustainability of their management objectives and actions for generations to come. They encourage the use of the forest by visitors and eco-tourists at no charge; support environmental research programs and institutes; and offer both modern and traditional forest land use options to the local community.

Limberlost's primary objective is to offer continued free access to the 10,000 acre Muskoka property for the purpose of encouraging safe wilderness experiences. Free use of the property is made possible by revenue from rental accommodations and campsites.

After answering questions, Christy thanked Gareth for his talk. She also thanked the many volunteers and staff that make MWC's projects and programs successful.

MWC Working Group Initiatives

MWC Working Group Co-chair Pete LeMoine highlighted the activities of the Working Group, which includes learning about the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit's Climate Change Story Map, the Algae Monitoring Program, and the planned communications initiative in local media featuring articles on watershed management and algae coordinated by Pete and Breeanna Campbell.

Updates & New Business

- **Flood Task Force** – Kevin Trimble provided an update on the Flood Task Force struck by the Province and noted that he is compiling a list of media and outreach initiatives that include MWC. The communications initiative mentioned above will help promote MWC's message that a watershed strategy is needed for Muskoka.
- **Great Muskoka Paddling Experience** – Kevin Trimble noted that this is the first year the event will take place without Sandy Schofield at the helm. Sandy passed away in the spring, and the 2019 event will be held on Saturday, October 12th in his memory. Volunteers are needed to assist with the event, especially those with boats.

Next MWC Meeting

Friday, September 20, 2019 from 1-3 pm in the Council Chambers at the District of Muskoka administration building in Bracebridge.

Adjournment

Kevin Trimble adjourned the meeting at 1:40 pm and Gareth Cockwell led a hike on the Clear Lake Trail.