Minutes
Friday, February 15, 2013
1:00 pm
Council Chambers – District Municipality of Muskoka
70 Pine Street, Bracebridge

Present
Patricia Arney (Chair)  Allyn Abbott  Shane Baker
Nic Bell  Margaret Casey  Patsy Cross
Lou Guerriero  Isobel Heathcote  Gord Henderson
Jack Hepworth  Piret Hurrell  Steve Inniss
Richard Lammers  Anna Mallin  Brian McElwain
Michael Peppard  Peter Sale  Scott Young

Regrets
Scott Aitchison  Lola Bratty  Tom Clark
Louise Cragg  George Crawford  Neil Hutchinson
Caroline Konarzewski  Mary McCulley  Jan McDonnell
Don McVittie  Greg Mierle  Rob Milligan
Steve Munro  Ruth Nishikawa  Geoff Ross
Peter Seybold  Al Shaw  Paul Stueck
Ian Turnbull  Debbie Vernon  Paul Wiancko

Staff
Judi Brouse  Rebecca Willison  Marg French

Guests

Welcome
Patricia Arney called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm. Patricia introduced Nic Bell, who is the new golf course representative on MWC.

Confirmation of Minutes
MOTION by Peter Sale, seconded by Piret Hurrell
THAT the minutes of the Muskoka Watershed Council meeting dated January 18, 2013 be approved.

CARRIED

Correspondence
- Thank you letter received from Ben Boivin
- $500 Grant from Seguin Township
Presentation

Golf Course Best Management Practices – Nic Bell and Scott Young

Nic Bell and Scott Young have undertaken a review of the Golf Course Best Management Practices published in 2001. They have focussed their review on the operations and management section of the report and not the construction section. Construction of new golf courses has significantly slowed down since the report was produced.

Points from the presentation:
• Seven out of 30 golf courses in Muskoka are Audubon certified.
• 2-5% of golfers care that Muskoka Highlands is certified.
• Golfers mostly just want a nice golf course.
• Don MacKay, at Muskoka Highlands, is concerned about the use of water by golf courses and has stated that “Brown has to become the new green.”
• As water restrictions become more common, golf courses should be moving towards using drought tolerant grasses.
• The municipal requirement for golf courses be Audubon certified was presented as an option.

Patricia Arney thanked Nic and Scott for their presentation.

Chair's Items
Member biographies and photos for the website should be sent to Rebecca at rwillison@muskokawatershed.org. The Biographies received so far are available at http://www.muskokawatershed.org/about-us/council-committees/muskoka-watershed-council/.

Activity Report
• February 2013 Activity Report – was distributed with the agenda and reviewed at the meeting.
  • Policy & Research Committee – Attached
  • Strategic Directions Committee – Attached
  • Communications Committee – Steve Inniss reported on the social media program. We will get a newsletter signup form on the home page of the website when space is available. Steve requested photos to post on Facebook to help draw people to the site. Photos tend to get the most responses from people. Send photos to Rebecca. Post FAQs to the blog as they are completed. Would like additional content for the YouTube channel.

Updates and New Business
• Muskoka Stewardship Conference – April 27th at Nipissing University in Bracebridge. Theme: What Are You Watching?

Next MWC Meeting
Friday, March 22, 2013 in the Council Chambers at the District Municipality of Muskoka Administration Building.

Adjournment
Patricia Arney adjourned the meeting at 2:45 pm.