



Minutes

Friday, October 20, 2017

1:00 pm

Council Chambers – District Municipality of Muskoka
70 Pine Street, Bracebridge

Present

Lou Guerriero (Chair)
Margarete Cameron
Jack Hepworth
Rob Milligan
Kevin Trimble

Brenda Armstrong
Margaret Casey
Randy Jorgensen
Geoff Ross

Shane Baker
Don Furniss
Mara Kerry
Peter Sale

Staff

Christy Doyle

Rebecca Willison

Speakers

Jason Dwyer
(Ontario Parks)

Phil Careless
(Ontario Parks)

Community

Gillian Humphries

Summer Valentine (@1:50 pm)

Welcome

Chair Lou Guerriero called the meeting to order at 1:10 pm.

Confirmation of Minutes

MOTION by Jack Hepworth, seconded by Rob Milligan

THAT the minutes of the Muskoka Watershed Council meeting dated September 15, 2017 be approved.

CARRIED

Presentation

[Introduction to Queen Elizabeth II Wildlands: Background and Ongoing Efforts](#) – Jason Dwyer, Park Superintendent and Phil Careless, Park Biologist, [Queen Elizabeth II Wildlands Provincial Park](#), Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry

The Queen Elizabeth II Wildlands Provincial Park is a 33,505 hectare natural environment class park considered one of the most diverse and least disturbed natural areas found in Central Ontario. It contains 105 landform vegetation types (63 identified as critical) and has limited or no recent history of logging. Its low-rolling topography includes organic soils, flat sandy deposits, and bare bedrock uplands with shallow soil patches. As a non-operating park, it has no maintained public facilities or services.

Following general group discussion, MWC agreed to submit a letter to the provincial government to encourage the completion of a management plan for the park and to ensure that the area's ecological integrity remains a priority.

Lou thanked Jason and Phil for their presentation.

Muskoka Official Plan Review

Rob Milligan outlined the comments MWC proposes to submit to DMM regarding its Muskoka Official Plan review. There will be additional opportunities to provide comments following the public meeting scheduled for November 23rd, if needed. District staff has confirmed that comments may be received until the end of January 2018.

- Don Furniss noted that MWC's comments reflect what he would expect to receive from a Planning Advisory Committee (PAC).
- Rob Milligan suggested that MWC do more outreach about its role as the PAC.
- Peter Sale suggested that MWC watch closely when/how the area municipalities update their Official Plans and consider the extent of any changes related to the Muskoka Official Plan (once approved).
- Margaret Casey suggested that MWC might want to encourage area municipalities to update their Official Plans sooner than the required 10 years.
- Kevin Trimble noted that, as a group, we will continue to evolve the oversight/governance aspects of the PAC functions to ensure that we always seek full MWC review/sign-off.

MOTION by Rob Milligan, seconded by Peter Sale

THAT the letter re: *Muskoka Watershed Council Review of the Draft Muskoka Official Plan* dated September 27, 2017 and follow up letter dated October 11, 2017 be approved and submitted to The District Municipality of Muskoka on behalf of Muskoka Watershed Council in its capacity as the District of Muskoka's Planning Advisory Committee.

CARRIED

Updates & New Business

Christy Doyle reported that MWC is reviewing potential grants and internship opportunities to assist with various MWC projects.

Next MWC Meeting

Friday, November 24th at 1:00 pm in the Council Chambers at the District of Muskoka administration building in Bracebridge. The meeting will feature presentations by CanDetec Inc on the Three Mile Lake Algae Ultrasonic Project and the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit on algae reporting protocols.

Adjournment

Lou Guerriero adjourned the meeting at 3:10 pm.