



Minutes

Friday, February 21, 2025

1:00 pm

Castle Peak Retirement Residence Multipurpose Room (Bracebridge Library) & Zoom

Present (In-person)

Aaron Rusak (Chair)
Javier Cappella
Peter Kelley
Michael Peppard
Don Smith

Nancy Alcock
Joan Frain
Pete LeMoine
Geoff Ross
Kevin Trimble

Patricia Arney
Peter Johnston
David Parsons
Peter Sale

Present (Zoom)

John Cooper
Allan Hazelton
Cathy Oakden

Terry Crew
Richard Lammers
Bet Smith

Jo-Anne Goodwin
Don Macintosh

MWC Staff

Rebecca Willison

DMM Staff

Glenn Cunnington

Christiane Masters

Lauren Saville

Guests

Preston Nielsen *
Jim Prince *
Maggie Dechert
John Crowley

Andy Gordon *
Jose Augustine *
Greg Padulo
Penny Thomas *

Jeff Lehman *
Sandy Cairns *
Bill Heatlie
Joel Davey

* Attended by Zoom

Welcome

MWC Chair Aaron Rusak called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm. MWC member Peter Johnston provided a Land Acknowledgement. Aaron noted that the minutes of the MWC meeting held on January 17, 2025 will be approved at the March MWC meeting.

Presentation

[Climate and Sustainability in Muskoka](#) – Lauren Saville, Community Climate Initiatives Coordinator, The District Municipality of Muskoka

Lauren presented information about climate change impacts in Muskoka and the District's initiatives to address them. She discussed the importance of effective climate communication, focusing on emotions and connecting with specific audiences. Lauren highlighted four main areas of climate

impact in Muskoka: increased precipitation, forest fires, heat waves, and water quality issues. She outlined the District's climate action plan, including GHG reduction targets, waste diversion projects, and energy retrofits. Lauren also introduced the upcoming Climate Heroes program to engage the community in climate action.

During the Q&A period after Lauren's presentation, discussion revolved around the challenges of climate change and how to effectively communicate its impact to the public. It was noted that climate change is interconnected with other issues such as housing, affordability, safety, and health, and that it's crucial to make these connections to drive public concern. There was also discussion around the need for manufacturers to produce items that can be repaired, with a reference to the "right to repair" movement. The importance of bridging the gap between different groups and sources of information was emphasized, with a suggestion to connect on shared experiences

Following the discussion, Aaron thanked Lauren for her informative presentation.

Next MWC Meeting

MWC's next meeting is scheduled for Friday, March 21st at 1:00 pm in the Multipurpose Room at the Bracebridge Library and through Zoom. Rebecca Gasman will give a presentation on her research into algal blooms.

Adjournment

Aaron Rusak adjourned the meeting at 1:50 pm.

MWC's Annual General Meeting commenced at the close of the regular MWC meeting.