



Muskoka

WATERSHED COUNCIL

Minutes

Friday, June 21, 2013

1:00 pm

Torrance Community Centre
1030 Torrance Road, Torrance

Present

Patricia Arney (Chair)
Louise Cragg
Jack Hepworth
Mary McCulley
Michael Peppard
Peter Seybold
Debbie Vernon

Margaret Casey
Lou Guerriero
Piret Hurrell
Steve Munro
Geoff Ross
Al Shaw
Scott Young

John Cooper
Gord Henderson
Richard Lammers
Ruth Nishikawa
Peter Sale
Ian Turnbull

Regrets

Scott Aitchison
Lola Bratty
Neil Hutchinson
Anna Mallin
Don McVittie
Paul Stueck

Shane Baker
George Crawford
Steve Inniss
Jan McDonnell
Greg Mierle
Paul Wiancko

Nic Bell
Patsy Cross
Caroline Konarzewski
Brian McElwain
Rob Milligan

Staff

Judi Brouse

Rebecca Willison

Guests

Don Furniss
Doreen Jennings

Glen Barnes
Chris Marshall

Jik Jennings
Gloria Woodside

A member appreciation luncheon was held prior to the meeting.

Welcome

Patricia Arney called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

Confirmation of Minutes

MOTION by Piret Hurrell, seconded by Lou Guerriero

THAT the minutes of the Muskoka Watershed Council meeting dated May 17, 2013 be approved.

CARRIED

Correspondence

- None

Presentations

Introduction to the Biodiversity Project – Ian Turnbull, MWC member

- Ian provided an overview of the biodiversity project undertaken by the Biodiversity Subcommittee off the Policy & Research Committee over the past year.

Observed Changes Over the Years – Jik Jennings and Glen Barnes

- Jik Jennings, a longtime Glen Orchard resident, discussed the changes he has seen in this area over the years. "I was taught that if it had feathers or fur on it, you shot it or killed it somehow."
 - He felt that many areas he has canoed in the past are no longer accessible because of development.
 - It is also important to encourage the younger generation to get out and enjoy and appreciate the wetlands of Muskoka so that they will value and protect them in the future.
- Glen Barnes (unofficial Mayor of Torrance) spoke about the changes he has seen in the Torrance area.
 - Torrance used to be a golf course so all the trees present now are 50-60 years old.
 - There were barely any trees between Parry Sound and Gravenhurst.
 - It was very rare to see beavers.
 - Only used to see Canada geese migrating above and not on the land.
 - Not nearly as many turtles now as there used to be; also less frogs and cranes, which eat the frogs.

Help Shape the Future of Our Forest – Steve Munro, Westwind Forest Stewardship Inc.

- Steve provided background on forest management planning for the French-Severn Forest.
- Learn more about Forest Management Plans at http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Business/Forests/2ColumnSubPage/STEL02_163549.html

Maintaining Biodiversity: Goals for the Muskoka Watershed Council – Peter Sale, MWC member

Chair's Items

- None

Activity Report

- *June 2013 Activity Report* – was distributed with the agenda and reviewed at the meeting.

Updates and New Business

- Three lectures have been planned for the 2013 [Environmental Lecture Series](#), the first in July, the second in August and the third in September.

Next MWC Meeting

Friday, September 20, 2013 beginning at 1:00 pm in the Pine Room at the District of Muskoka Administration Building.

Adjournment

Patricia Arney adjourned the meeting at 2:35 pm followed by a guided nature hike at Hardy Lake Provincial Park.