Minutes

Friday, June 21, 2013
1:00 pm

Torrance Community Centre
1030 Torrance Road, Torrance

Present
Patricia Arney (Chair)        Margaret Casey        John Cooper
Louise Cragg                  Lou Guerriero         Gord Henderson
Jack Hepworth                 Piret Hurrell         Richard Lammers
Mary McCulley                 Steve Munro           Ruth Nishikawa
Michael Peppard               Geoff Ross             Peter Sale
Peter Seybold                 Al Shaw               Ian Turnbull
Debbie Vernon                 Scott Young           

Regrets
Scott Aitchison               Shane Baker           Nic Bell
Lola Bratty                   George Crawford        Patsy Cross
Neil Hutchinson               Steve Inniss           Caroline Konarzewski
Anna Mallin                   Jan McDonnell         Brian McElwain
Don McVittie                  Greg Mierle            Rob Milligan
Paul Stueck                   Paul Wiancko         

Staff
Judi Brouse                   Rebecca Willison       

Guests
Don Furniss                   Glen Barnes            Jik Jennings
Doreen Jennings               Chris Marshall         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 Sub-committee 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.

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.