

Environment North Minutes
Tues. June 14th, 2016

Location: Lucy's house

5:45 pm

Board Members:

Scott Harris - chair

Lucy Laframboise

Susan Grinstead

Lea Matyuska

Graham Saunders

Members at Large:

Kerstin Muth

Board Business

The agenda was approved as amended.

Moved by: Graham

2nd by: Lea

carried

The minutes for April 2016 were approved.

Moved by: Susan

2nd by: Scott

carried

The minutes for May 2016 were approved as amended.

Moved by: Lea

2nd by: Graham

carried

The treasurer's report was approved.

Moved by: Lucy

2nd by: Susan

carried

AGM Review

Gordon Laxer spoke about his book "After The Tar Sands".

A separate sheet was used for expenses and intake. Tax receipts for donations will be issued.

The loss of the local CBC radio for an afternoon interview was noticeable. A letter will be written to complain to the CBC about no local programming in the afternoon.

Energy East Pipeline

A coalition of groups: EN, CUSP and ON want equal representation and time to speak to Trans Canada about the pipeline plans. We believe that NOMA should not be expressing approval about the proposal as many NOMA members are not elected officials and the impact is not just on municipalities, but also First Nations' lands, unorganized townships and crown land. Details on construction and maintenance jobs need to be checked. We can see financial trouble as the extra oil will bring the price down and processing the bitumen costs more to produce than the market price reflects. Insurance companies are becoming nervous about insuring pipelines because of past spills and public dissent.

Canada Postal Services

The post offices are looking at a variety of options to keep this service public and viable. Suggestions have been cheque cashing and postal money orders, delivering groceries and checking daily on seniors in the route. Julee will attend the meeting and report back to us.

LPH Green Space

The green space around the old LPH needs to be protected and have more trails. EN will review the status of the city plans for this area.

CJ Articles

Graham's article on the Fort McMurray fire was shocking when the size was overlaid on a map of this region. Many cities have not adapted well to the new climate with more flooding, forest fires and hurricanes.

Roopa's article was on bio-mass. Scott's was about the declining population of woodland caribou and the changing wildlife in this area.

These articles were written by our members as personal interest pieces.

Invitation to Speak

Matawa First Nations are in the 4 rivers area; they are Longlac, Marten Falls, Lansdowne and Fort Hope. This group has invited us to speak to them about general environmental news. Graham will talk to them.

Enbridge

Enbridge wants to bring a hydro line thru Dorion. There are 3 lines already that go thru this area around Dorion and Pukaskaw National Park.

Northwatch

Northwatch, the environment group in NE Ontario, will visit the city in the fall. More information will follow.

National Energy Board

Among the 7 new members that Harper appointed, many have given up the position. There is concern that some of these people are biased in their opinions and have links to the fossil fuel industry.

Next Meeting Tues. July 12th, 2016 potluck at Lucy's or Scott's
We adjourned at 8:55pm.