

Environment North Minutes

May 14, 2014

Location: basement @ Bay Credit Union

Time: 5:15 pm

Board Members:

Graham Saunders - Chair

Lucy Laframboise

Scott Harris

Roopa Rakshit

Lea Matyuska

Susan Grinstead

Julee Boan

Kirsten Odber

Members: Brittany Young, Simon Holenstein

The agenda was accepted as amended.

Moved by: Lea 2nd by: Scott carried

January 2014 minutes were accepted.

Moved by: Scott 2nd by: Julee carried

March 2014 minutes were accepted as amended.

Moved by: Scott 2nd by: Kirsten carried

Board Business

1. Appointment of Officers

The current board positions were ratified. The executive is Graham- President, Scott - VP, Lea - Treasurer, and Susan – Recording Secretary.

Moved by: Julee 2nd by: Kirsten carried

2. Treasurer's Report

The "Earth Rhythms Concert" raised funds for The Indian Friendship Centre, New Directions Speaker's Bureau and Environment North. We each received 1/3 of the amount. Thank you to Bruce Hyer, Sarah Harmer, Valdy and Rodney Brown.

Susan is to convert the membership list to show method of payment, cash or cheque, and donation amount. There was a discussion on charitable receipts for membership and tax refunds; Lea will look into this and clarify it.

The term deposit fund (enduring legacy) has been renewed for one year. The April balance in our account is \$7,579.

Accepted by: Lea 2nd by: Kirsten carried

3. Speaker's Bureau

Dr. Ralph Martin, chair of Loblaw's Food Sustainable Production and professor at Guelph University, will be talking about food security and waste. He will be speaking at the Waverly Library on Thursday, May 22nd at 7pm. Kendal Donahue will speak about Thunder Bay's new Food Strategy. Transportation and health issues will be addressed with climate change.

We need audio- video equipment to record any future speaker's. Awards and money are given by TBaytel and TD Friends of the Environment. Julee, Roopa and Lea are looking into requesting funds for this equipment.

4. World Environment Day

This free event will take place on June 5th, 2014 @ Thunder Bay Art Gallery at Confederation College from 8:30am – 1pm. Breakfast and lunch will be provided. Peggy Dover will be the speaker and moderator. There will be 2 panels. Ontario Trillium Foundation, Ministry of Environment, National Research Council, EcoSuperior and KBM are participating.

5. Northern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA)

Graham spoke to NOMA on the impacts and risks, especially to wet lands and rivers, associated with the TransCanada Energy East Pipeline. Rail traffic is not expected to be diminished

by this project. The presentation was well received with a lot of questions being asked. Mayor Hobbs is against the pipeline. However, NOMA passed a resolution to support it.

6. Ontario Energy Board (OEN)

The town hall meetings are for information and communication on the TransCanada Energy East Pipeline. Seven groups, including Citizen's United for a Sustainable Planet (CUSP), Council of Canadians (CoC), Ontario Nature (ON) and ourselves (EN) are against the project and have faxed our objection to the OEN. Seven groups, including some town councils and engineering firms, have expressed public support of the pipeline. Some of the hopes are for an increased tax base with new industrial development, increased energy infrastructure to support pumping stations, local employment and more traffic through the area. There is also a fear of rail risks that make some believe pipelines are safer. However, the Ministry of Environment reported several major pipeline breaks in this area alone in the last few years. Since they were gas, the fuel evaporated within days; a bitumen spill is permanent. There was no info on climate change impacts of this project. Groups asking city council to reject the pipeline proposal are ON, CoC, CUSP and EN.

There was a motion to support a deputation to city council to oppose the TransCanada Energy East Pipeline. Moved by: Scott 2nd by: Lucy carried

7. Remedial Action Plan Public Advisory Committee (RAP-PAC)

There are 5 options for cleaning the lagoon at the former Provincial Papers mill site on the north waterfront. They are: excavation and upland disposal, capping, dredging and disposal at the existing Mission Bay Confined Disposal Facility, dredging and disposal in a new CDF, dredging and disposal plus utilizing the existing lagoons. The areas in the lake bottom where the lagoons are belong to the Thunder Bay Port Authority. The Public Advisory Committee determined that the last option is the most favoured. There should public access to the remediate site. It should have benefits for recreation and industry, as well as enhancing a habitat for fish and fauna.

8. Commissioning a Song

An idea was presented to ask a musician to write a song about Environment North. It would be about its 40 year history and some of the major influences it has had in the area and abroad. The board is thinking about it.

9. CJ Articles

The June article will be about the election. Quoting Scott, "A vote for the economy is a vote for me; a vote for the environment is a vote for my grandchildren."

10. Blue Community

A Blue Community is committed to 3 ideas and practises: water is a basic human right, water services are to remain publically owned and bottled water is to be banned at city events with free tap water accessible. In July, the city council will consider the motion to become a Blue Community.

11. Dorion

This little community will be getting a major east-west hydro transmission line and a twinned Trans-Canada Highway. It is also on the route for the proposed pipeline conversion. Dorion townsfolk believe all these upgrades will change the numbers and profile of the community.

12. Election

The anti-slap legislation was dropped on the provincial floor because of the election. Environment North Board members are not to display partisan views during the election campaign.

13. Next Meeting Tues. June 3rd, 2014 5:15 – 7:30 pm @ Roopa's house