



DRAFT

Mono Mulumur Annual General Meeting Minutes November 3, 2019

1. The meeting was convened at 2:09 p.m. at the Mansfield Ski Club by Elaine Capes, President of MC². There were 39 people in attendance. Elaine ran through the agenda for the afternoon. Once the formal meeting would close we would have a break and then hear our guest speaker, Dorothy Mazeau talk about housing alternatives.
2. The **agenda** was approved through a motion by Lisa Garber, seconded by Delfino Bernardi and confirmed by all present.
3. The **minutes** of our 30th Anniversary, November 17, 2018 were approved with a **motion** by **Knut Holmsen, seconded by Cheryl Russel and carried by all.**
4. Don MacFarlane presented the **Treasurer's Report**. Our fiscal year is July 1 to June 30. Donations have helped a great deal and are appreciated. We are down about 6 members. Please urge neighbours and friends to join MC² to support our important community presence. We are continuing to work on engaging new members. We are now able to accept e-transfers for MC². Those who live outside of Mono or Mulumur are still very welcome to join. We are slowly draining our reserves by about \$1,000. per year. Fundraising can be a challenge in terms of volunteer time. However, for our 2018 AGM we did raise \$1,610. in a silent auction of artists' work generously donated by our local artist members and by our interim president. Our main expenditure is meetings, events and communication. The latter includes maintaining our website and designing and producing a new brochure. Another significant item is Board insurance. Please see the Treasurer's Report for more details. There was a **motion to approve the Treasurer's report by Dick Byford, seconded by Joanne Rovet and approved by all.** There was another motion to change signing authority as Don is stepping down as our treasurer. It was **moved by Joanne Rovet and seconded by Frances MacFarlane and carried by all with a show of hands.** Our new treasurer will be Bob Mitchell who comes with a lot of experience in finance and currently is also the treasurer for the Dufferin Arts Council. We are grateful for his willingness to take on this task. **A motion by Don MacFarlane, seconded by Huntly Christie moved and supported by all, moved to declare Bob Mitchell as MC²'s new Treasurer.** Elaine thanked Don for his many contributions to MC² as he is also leaving the Board. She related that it is almost impossible to put into words how much he has given to our organization. We will miss him and at the same trust he will continue to be available to give us his wisdom, share his knowledge of the community and his tremendous ability to communicate clearly and sensitively.

5. Arnold De Graaff then gave his **Environment Report**. Following is his report:

During this past year, we had a joint presentation with the NFU (National Farmers' Union) and MC² in February 2019 with Tamer Soliman, a community food activist. As a follow up we hope to begin a 'long table' food meal which will be intergenerational to discuss issues of concern for all of us today.

Just last weekend we had a presentation on Plastic Pollution and Human Health which was well received including comments like: "...MC² is to be congratulated for this initiative and for being watchful eyes, ears and intelligence in our communities. The presentations were excellent and backed up with good science. I would have liked to be there for the panel discussion and to hear what social and political perspectives Arnold added to the scientific side of things. Joanne's presentation was particularly pithy in identifying what happens to our health; what outrages are perpetrated on lung and skin and gut. The effects of nano particles are particularly chilling." A request has come from St. John's United Church in Alliston, asking for a presentation during an information meeting for local churches pursuing a cleaner environment. No doubt they were inspired by the efforts of 'CLEAN' in Creemore as reported at the presentation by Cecily Ross. We are also following up with the high schools as certain teachers and many students are showing more interest in environmental action. A local Humber student is gathering signatures for our petition to the federal Environment Minister. Rogers cable TV taped the morning and is working on editing so that we can share it on our website soon. I want to highlight the petition we are asking you to sign, if you haven't already done so. Next to the petitions are copies of the letter to the minister and a summary of the concerns.

Looking back at the last seven years the environment committee made 11 community presentations. One that stands out for me most was our first one on "Bees In Decline and Biodiversity" as it was so creative and crucial. The other is Maude Barlow's presentation on water during a raging winter snowstorm in April. Finally the presentations on Lyme disease were very touching and critical. We are following up with a support group called Dufferin Lyme Aware at the Mill St. Public Library in Orangeville on the second Tuesday of the month starting at 6:30 p.m.

Looking ahead we need to continue to be vigilant. The decline of bees and biodiversity are as serious as six years ago. Likewise threats to drinking water are equally concerning, as Maude Barlow recently highlighted with the federal government's stance of 'water for sale'. These two examples alone, along along with other topics we have addressed highlight the inability of our society to change more fundamentally. It is becoming more and more evident that capitalism cannot deal with all our environmental crises. Capitalism cannot solve these problems because of its commitment to unlimited growth and a deep conviction in progress and profit above all. I would like to challenge all of us as members and the board to organize an open community discussion on this topic.

We continue to look for new members on our committee. I am resigning as chair person of the environment committee. Rita has agreed to serve for one year as chair person. We have a strong enjoyable committee, so please consider joining us.

Elaine thanked Arnold for all his efforts, his foresight in analyzing what we need to pay attention to and his ability to challenge all of us.

6. Elaine then presented a brief **President's Report**. She pointed to the wonderful communication from Don and others through our Newsletter for the issues that have been in the forefront this past year. Thankfully she will continue in the role of president. She also took some questions from the audience about recent issues. One regarded the potential for amalgamation of municipalities. Though the province seemed keen to pursue this there is no longer an appetite from the current government to do so. Regardless the various municipalities in Dufferin are looking at cost efficiencies and areas of collaboration that will also improve services. The Board has been following this carefully in part through the diligent work of Cheryl, Knut, Del and Bob in attending local council meetings and reporting back to the board. There was a question on land use regarding the potential expansion of the green belt and the relationship to farming and particularly Mulmur's tax base. The board is watching this carefully. Another question was about the status of quarries just north of highway 89 and a piece of land north of 89 across from Mrs. Mitchell's on which someone wanted to start a truck cleaning business. The initial development plan was denied by the Mono Committee of Adjustment. We will keep the membership informed. Finally there was a question on friction between the County of Dufferin and Amaranth about changing some land use designated agricultural land. MC² has sent a letter affirming the County's position. We are busy putting all of our letters on our website. Several can already be seen under 'Letters'. One query was whether we could consider some kind of sticker for our vehicles promoting MC².

Elaine thanked the Board members as well as a special thanks to Cathy Noonan who has contributed so much in her work on our Newsletters and maintaining our membership. Though she was absent Felicite Morgan was thanked for all her work maintaining our website and recently creating our new brochure. Rita was also thanked for her contributions to MC².

The slate of Board directors was elected with a motion from Harvey Kolodny, seconded by Joanne Rovet. It was carried by a majority show of hands. They are: Elaine Capes, President; Bob Mitchell, Treasurer; Rita Reitsma, Secretary; Susan Brown; Delfino Bernardi; Arnold De Graaff; Knut Holmsen; and Cheryl Russel. There was then a motion for adjournment of the formal AGM, moved by Bob Mitchell and seconded by Knut Holmsen, also carried by a majority show of hands.

7. Our guest speaker was **Dorothy Mazeau** from Golden Girls (and guys) Canada. Dorothy is a specialist in Seniors Real Estate. She has shared a home in various forms for the last 15 years in the Caledon area. Over 70% of people owning homes in Caledon are over 50. Many are empty nesters. There are 5 million spare bedrooms in Ontario which could go a long way to increasing housing stock without having to create anything new. Essentially Golden Girls (www.goldenhomesharingconnections.ca) help in matching single adults for shared housing. They have extensive questionnaires and other mechanisms to help create a livable match. There is a strong emphasis on understanding each others' lifestyles. The key is compatibility. She stressed how important it is to do your due diligence. There are many benefits to sharing housing beyond the obvious economic ones. These include environmental, social, emotional, sharing tasks, being able to remain in your own home and supporting each other in emergencies. There are many forms of arrangements. As long as a bathroom and kitchen are being shared in the home it is not subject to the Landlord Tenant Act. Thus the owner can have

anyone removed if necessary, though this is hopefully not needed if one has done due diligence. Another arrangement could be co-ownership where you need a team of legal, actuarial and other expertise. If there are differences in percentage of investment each person would still have an equal say in decisions. The Golden Girls Act has been passed by the Ontario government which means that municipalities cannot prevent unrelated adults from living in and owning the same home. Dorothy's presentation was followed by a group discussion of how this might be realized in Mono and Mulmur. Rita added some thoughts about viewing housing as a necessity and not primarily as a commodity. We have a lot of beliefs about housing in our individualistic society which could be different. For instance in Vienna, Austria 62% of people live in subsidized public housing. In Dufferin County there is an average wait list of 623 people waiting for subsidized housing as we have so little communally owned housing stock. Some young people who have shared housing as renters, are now buying a house together as both rents and ownership are far too onerous. A tiny house (as long as it is mobile) on the property in exchange for services could work for some. A second dwelling is allowed now in Mulmur and Mono. If it is a new structure there is a development fee (\$11,000.+), however, an existing space can be renovated without that fee. Providing someone (could be a relative, friend...) living on your property the opportunity to have a percentage ownership (in effect a ghost share holder) without being on title could be a way to be able to remain in your home. This could be in exchange for services while possibly still paying rent that accrues for the investment that would be payable only when the property sells and is reflected in the will. We do not have to be bound to charging 'market value' rents. We can think creatively and collaboratively. We need to build a more intergenerational community where connection not profit is seen as protective for every dimension of life.

Finally thanks to all those who contributed to the refreshments, registration, gifts and room booking. Thanks as well to all those who helped carrying and cleaning up. The venue was great. Maybe next year we can be on the main floor to make it more accessible.

Rita Reitsma, secretary for the Board MC²