

Parry Sound – Muskoka Liberal Women’s Club
Inaugural Meeting Minutes

November 15, 2018

Pine Lodge Inn in Port Sydney 484 Muskoka Road 10

In attendance

Carrie Campbell	Jennifer Alexis	Mary Jane Fletcher
Cathy Doyle	Joyce Tobobandung	Nancy Osborne
Claire Doughty	Karen Dinner	Sydney Allen
Dana Clark	Karen Wainwright	Tamsen Tillson (Note taker)
Dawn Tabobandung	Kate Monk	Trisha Cowie
Dora Tabobandung	Kim Doughty	Valarie Anne Seeky
Gina Newhall	Lauren Doughty	Wendee Cameron
Gloria Woodside	Mallorie Malone	

The meeting commenced at 6:20 pm

1. Welcome Remarks by Nancy Osborne

- Trisha Cowie acknowledged that the land the group was meeting on is Robinson Huron treaty territory and Anishnabe treaty territory and expressed appreciation.
- Nancy Osborne thanked Pine Lodge for the lovely rental space
- Thanked everyone for coming out
- Noted that quite a few could not come but expressed an interest
- Invited the group to help themselves to a snack, desert, coffee, tea etc.
- Noted that for those wishing to join the PSM Liberal Women’s Club would need to fill out a membership as well as be members of the Liberal Party of Canada and that forms are available.

2. Chair of Meeting

- Nancy Osborne noted that she is Representing Chair until we fill board positions
- She thanked the minute taker and Jen Alexis for handling registration at the door.

3. Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda as presented

Moved by: Gloria Woodside Seconded by: Kim Doughty

MOTION

CARRIED

4. Establishment of a NWLCO Club

Nancy presented highlights of the Liberal guidelines regarding the formation of Liberal Women’s Clubs as follows:

- ALL WHO SELF IDENTIFY AS WOMEN AND ARE MEMBERS OF THE LIBERAL PARTY ARE ALREADY MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL LIBERAL WOMEN’S COMMISSION (NWLC).
- The NWLC wants to make sure more and more Liberal women are successful

when they decide to run for office and is working to inspire more women to step into leadership roles in the political arena.

- Ask a Woman to Run.
- Elect Women by Voting.
- Elect Women by Volunteering.
- **The Judy LaMarsh Fund.** The Judy LaMarsh Fund mandate is to financially support nominated women candidates. One hundred percent of the Judy LaMarsh Fund's contribution to a candidate goes directly to the candidate's campaign. (Finances are held in trust by the EDA)

A question was raised about whether the mandate of the Liberal Women's Club will include tackling issues of interest and concern to women beyond those relating to political office. Nancy indicated that it will. Nancy chose to move to item 6 as it related directly to the question and then come back to the election of officers (Item 5) afterwards.

6. Establishment of a NWLCO Club

Nancy noted that this group is one of the first to have received the new Charter, portions of which she highlighted below:

NWLC Charter

- **Article 2 – Mandate, Role and Purpose**
 - 2.1 The mandate of the WLC is to ensure that women have a voice throughout all levels of the Liberal Party of Canada and Canada through actively developing, promoting and advocating for:
 - (a) Policy that promotes gender equity, issues of concern to women and intersectionality of identity and privilege based on personal characteristics;
 - (b) The election of female candidates to the House of Commons and the appointment of female senators;
 - (c) Equal representation of women on all Liberal Party of Canada committees and boards;
 - (d) Equal representation of women on all national boards, government institutions and committees;
- One of the ways they effect these goals is the use of Commission Sections and WLC Clubs at the grass-roots level for the broad communication and promotion of the WLC mandate;
- **Article 6 – WLC Clubs**
 - 6.3 Each club will identify its purpose or geographic region. A club may be based on a particular area of interest or activity; a particular geographic area; an EDA; or any other purpose defined by such club membership.
 - 6.6 To be considered a member of a WLC Club, a Registered Liberal who is a WLC Member shall sign up to the club's membership list.

- 6.7 A WLC Club shall be duly formed upon the filing with the National Office staff member responsible for commission support its initial membership list, its statement of purpose, and the record of its founding meeting, including notice of such meeting and attendance by a minimum number of club members as required by By-law 1 - Commissions.

Jennifer Alexis noted that when women have strong communication and supportive networks, communities tend to run more smoothly, and expressed a desire for the group to be action-oriented rather than “a stale political institution.” The group responded in agreement. Issues such as the “unfounded” rate, affordable housing and homelessness, lack of representation for women in the North of the riding, outreach to men, the urgent need for sexual assault services in the face of the #metoo movement and a lack of funding, human trafficking on the Highway 11 corridor, opioid addiction, the environment, and a proactive approach to education were raised as issues of interest and concern.

Nancy called for a mission statement that would encompass all of that for the formation of the group.

MOTION

That the following be adopted as the mission statement of the new PSM LWC.

The Parry Sound – Muskoka Liberal Women’s Club is a voice for women in the entire electoral district (EDA) to advocate for policies that promote gender equity, issues of concern to women and intersectionality of identity and privilege based on personal characteristics, and maximize the potential for women’s representation in the political realm.

Moved by: Trisha Cowie Seconded by: Dana Clark

CARRIED

A question was raised as to whether there can be sub-chapters of the group, representing geographic sectors of the EDA, for example. No, but there can be hubs. For example, there could be groups in various areas that could capture the interests of specific communities and especially in the outlying areas that are often overlooked.. Nancy also noted that while you have to be a registered Liberal to belong to the PSM LWC, members are able to represent broader issues than that.

5. Election of Executive

- Chair*
- Vice Chair
- Recording Officer*
- Organizational Chair
- Policy Chair
- Membership Chair

- Finance Chair
- Communications Chair
 - (* indicates required positions)

The group chose to fill three positions: Chair, Vice Chair and Recording Officer. Nancy called for expressions of interest in the Chair position. Jennifer Alexis and Dana Clark stepped forward. It was recommended that one be voted in as Chair and the other be Vice Chair. Each introduced themselves, spoke of their experience and background. They left the room and a vote was held. Jennifer Alexis was voted Chair, Dana Clark, Vice Chair. Nancy then called for expressions of interest in the Recording Officer position. Tamsen Tillson stepped forward.
Recording Officer — Tamsen Tillson.

7. **Turnover of meeting to New Chair of Parry Sound – Muskoka Liberal Women’s Club**
 - Nancy expressed her pleasure, as the Director of Women of the EDA, to hand the meeting over to the new Chair, Jennifer Alexis.
8. **Other Business**
 - **Nancy Osborne** — Open for nominations for four positions on the Ontario branch of the National Women’s Liberal Commission. If interested, please see Nancy.
 - **Trisha Cowie** announced her decision to seek the candidacy for the Parry Sound – Muskoka Federal Liberals.
9. **Closing Remarks and Adjournment**

Moved by Nancy Osborne

Motion to adjourn

CARRIED