

Dear RMIA members,

"As you were made aware, yesterday a number of RMIA Directors - Ian Newall, Nick Nicolaou, Bob Nash and Pat Mohan attended the District of Muskoka Public Meeting on the draft Muskoka Operating Plan (MOP). Several RMIA members were also in attendance.

There were approximately 500 people in attendance and a total of 52 registered speakers! The meeting lasted 6 hours!! Ian Newall presented the RMIA position letter (previously circulated), Bob Nash spoke on behalf of the Lake Rosseau North Association (in their absence) and Paul Crammond gave his unique insight as both a cottager and a real estate professional in the region, as to how this proposal could do untold harm, and the probability that these new hybrid resorts will likely ultimately fail anyhow.

Of the 52 speakers, 49 were opposed to the proposed rezoning of commercial resorts to allow 50% residential occupancy, and 3 were in favour - all of whom were representatives of various developers. There were a lot of very factual presentations outlining the danger to the environment, quality of Muskoka life and pandering to developers/commercial interests that form only 8% of the property tax base. The politicians were left in no doubt that if they agree to these changes they will be voted out of office in the Municipal elections in October 2018, and would leave a shameful legacy.

This meeting was to get the public's input on the draft MOP. The drafting consultant, and 2 councillors who made comments, agreed that the draft plan would have to be revisited taking into account the comments made. As such a new draft will be submitted for public comment at some time in 2018, where we will have another opportunity to comment. Some other cottage associations offered to engage professionals from their communities to help advise the Planning and Economic Development Committee. With that in mind the Board would like to request any RMI cottagers with environment, planning or legal expertise consider volunteering for the RMI Board, so these issues can be more closely tracked and monitored. If you would like to volunteer for the RMI Board, please contact Ian Newall at ian.newall@sympatico.ca.

We believe the large turnout (together with over 4,000 signatures to various petitions) took the politicians by surprise. One Councillor actually voiced support for the interest shown by the public in this issue, and hoped it would be continued.

Rest assured we will be partaking in all future meetings to ensure these proposals are met with the utmost opposition. This will directly affect all RMI residents, as we will all have to pass through both Legacy Cottages and the proposed 1,400 cottages of the Village of Minett, and suffer the resultant environmental, traffic and noise pollution."

P.S. Please refer to link below from the Globe and Mail

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/ontario-cottage-region-to-reconsider-development-limits-around-lakes/article37070708/>

Best regards,

Nick Nicolaou OBE

Vice-President - RMIA