



Call to Order & Announcements

Meeting chaired by President Mahayarrahh-Starr Livingstone, called to order at 19:30.

The chair reminds everyone to sign-in and that there are calendars (\$17) and eclipse glasses (\$2 members, \$3 non-members) available to purchase. There are 50/50 tickets available as well. The draw takes place after the break.

Introduction of Guests

- Fatemeh Hamdizadeh, an English teacher at College Boreal with a degree in Physics.
- Rob Sheppard, a visiting member of RASC, London Centre.
- Josh Vandezande, Community Relations, Hydro One. Guest speaker.

Minutes of the previous Meeting

January 16, 2023. Hard copies available. Minutes prepared by Sandy French & Tara Carman-French, with notes and assistance from Tom Sobocan. Sandy & Tara have volunteered to continue as Co-Secretaries for the Centre.

Motion to accept the Minutes as presented:

Moved by Susan Sawyer-Beaulieu, seconded by Sandy van Gaalen. Carried.

Guest Presentation

Josh Vandezande of Hydro One made a presentation on local (Southwestern Ontario) capital projects.

These projects include a new 500KV line being constructed from Chatham to Lakeshore. Towers are currently being constructed and are visible from the 401.

Another 500KV line from Longwood (Mount Bridges) to Lakeshore will begin shortly. These lines are needed to facilitate the current and expected growth in residential, industrial (Battery Plants) and agricultural (Greenhouse) demand.

The environmental assessment process will lead to a set of proposed routes which will be posted on an interactive GIS map available online.

Questions from the floor:

- *Who pays for all of this?* Ratepayers, with oversight from the Ontario Energy Board.
 - *Regarding the new substation near Hallam Observatory, how will outdoor lighting be managed?* Concerns raised by the members of RASC have been shared with the engineering team and will be addressed with safety concerns in mind. Transport Canada has guidelines for tower lights to be included as well. All groups are open to further discussion as plans progress.
 - *Will these projects cover all the needed demand?* As demands grow in Windsor and St Thomas from the new battery plants, there may be other capital build required in the future. Greenhouse construction in Essex County also will increase demand. Also, as Electric Vehicles and electric home heating come online, demand will grow.
 - *Further to the Substation, will Dark Skies be preserved and will full spectrum lighting be used?* This information has been sent to the design team.
 - *How are routes determined?* Based on current linear routes (highways, rail lines) to avoid difficult terrain (wetlands, rivers, cities) and existing infrastructure (wind towers, existing power lines).
- The environmental assessment process looks at these concerns.
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- *Could these lines be run underground?* No, managing high voltage is tricky and running underground causes power losses and increases safety concerns. Also it is about 10 times more expensive to run underground.

Solar Eclipse Imaging Presentation

Dr. Susan Sawyer-Beaulieu's presentation is posted on the RASC Windsor website under Special Events.

https://www.rascwindsor.com/media/pdf/newsletter/2024/Solar_Eclipse_Imaging_TipsTricksTools_withLinks_.pdf

Information included:

- DIY Solar Filters
- Considerations when deciding on an imaging plan

Further information can be found in the presentation "Getting Into Digital Solar Imaging" from April 18, 2017, available at https://www.rascwindsor.com/media/pdf/Getting_Into_Solar_Imaging.pdf and the Interactive Google Map by Xavier Juber, at http://xjubier.free.fr/en/site_pages/solar_eclipses/TSE_2024_GoogleMapFull.html

Break

The chair called a coffee break following Susan's presentation. Guests were invited for hot chocolate, coffee or tea, as well as various cookies and muffins. 50/50 Draw winner was Juliana Grigorescu; donated back to RASC Windsor.

Director of Observing Report

Dr. Susan Sawyer-Beaulieu presented a summary of local observations and what to look for in the next month.

Member Photographs Included:

- Steve Mastellotto: Solar photos from his C-Star telescope.
- Mike Mastronardi: Jackson Park photos of the Moon, Jupiter and the Spitfire plane on February 12.
- Nancy Ng: Crescent Moon on February 12-14 through her new 600mm lens.

Observing Highlights included:

- February 22: Venus and Mars.
- February 24: Full Snow Moon.
- March 13-14: Jupiter, the Moon and the Pleiades one hour after sunset.
- A summary of the winter sky tonight, through to the March meeting.

Upcoming Events

- Tuesday, March 19, 19:30: RASC Windsor Centre Membership Meeting, Ojibway Centre.
- Monday, April 8: Total Solar Eclipse, between about 13:58 and 16:26 along Lake Erie, with totality around 15:14.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned (without vote) at 21:50.