



Agenda
Whitestone Environmental Stewardship Committee

Wednesday, December 8, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84160595477>

Join by Phone

Meeting ID: **841 6059 5477**
647 374 4685 Canada

1. CALL TO ORDER

Indigenous Land Acknowledgement Statement

The Municipality of Whitestone recognizes all of Canada resides on traditional, unceded and/or treaty lands of the Indigenous People of Turtle Island.

We recognize our Municipality on The Robinson Huron Treaty territory is home to many past, present and future Indigenous families.

This acknowledgment of the land is a declaration of our commitment and collective responsibility to reconcile the past, and to honour and value the culture, history and relationships we have with one another.

2. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND GENERAL NATURE THEREOF

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- 4.1 Approval of Whitestone Environmental Stewardship Committee Meeting of October 27, 2021
- 4.2 Approval of Whitestone Environmental Stewardship Committee Meeting of November 10, 2021
- 4.3 Approval of Whitestone Environmental Stewardship Committee Meeting of November 24, 2021

5. CORRESPONDENCE

6. NEW BUSINESS OR ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 6.1 Review of septic information
- 6.2 2022 Budget

7. NEXT MEETING - to be held pending the arrangements for guest speaker, Rob Gibson, MNR & F to discuss shoreline development

8. ADJOURNMENT



21 Church Street
 Dunchurch, Ontario P0A 1G0
 Phone: 705-389-2466 ~ Fax: 705-389-1855

www.whitestone.ca
 E-mail: info@whitestone.ca

**Minutes of the Whitestone Environmental Stewardship Committee meeting
 held on Wednesday, October 27, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.
 via Zoom Video Conferencing and Phone-In**

Present: Lynn Brennan
 Councillor Beth Gorham-Matthews
 Ian Crawford
 Councillor Joe McEwen
 Dennis Morrison
 Rob Morrison
 Juliette Terry
 David West

Regrets: Patricia Moleirinho
 Scott Nash
 Brad Parkes
 Anne Wright

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1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Councillor Beth Gorham-Matthews called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Indigenous Land Acknowledgement Statement

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2. **DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**

Councillor Beth Gorham-Matthews requested that any pecuniary interest be declared for the record. None declared.

3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

2021-08ESC Moved by Dennis Morrison
Seconded by David West

WHEREAS the members of the Environmental Stewardship Committee have been presented with the Agenda for this meeting;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Agenda for this meeting be adopted as presented and circulated. **Carried**

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2021-09ESC Moved by David West
Seconded by Lynn Brennan

WHEREAS the Whitestone Environmental Stewardship Committee is in receipt of the September 15, 2021 meeting minutes.

AND WHEREAS there are no errors, omissions or amendments;

BE IT RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held September 15, 2021 be adopted as presented. **Carried**

5. SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

5.1 Mayor's Monarch Butterfly Pledge

- David West reached out to Gail Hoskins to participate in the tagging of monarch butterflies program in the spring of next year. In March or April the committee will revisit the Pledge action items for 2022.
- Dennis Morrison approached the Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve (GBBR) regarding their monarch gardens program. Dennis will connect David West with his contact

5.2 Blue Green Algae/Hazardous Algae Blooms

- We will provide educational material to the municipality and ratepayers regarding these issues
- As winter is approaching, these topics can rest until the spring
- We will continue researching over the winter months as more information becomes available and be ready to do educational pieces in spring 2022

5.3 Nuisance Canada Geese

- We will provide educational material to the municipality and ratepayers regarding these issues
- As winter is approaching, these topics can rest until the spring
- We will continue researching over the winter months as more information becomes available and be ready to do educational pieces in spring 2022

5.4 Invasive Species

- Boot brushes have been installed on the walking trails

- It is suggested that we install signs to explain their purpose and how to use them properly
- Ian has forwarded the photo from the Saugeen Times showing the sign on the Bruce Trails for their boot brushes, which we can adopt
- The Green Shovels grant has been approved to purchase equipment for ratepayers to borrow to clear invasive plant species on their property and we have until February 2022 to buy the equipment
- The application the MTO used on the Japanese knotweed on Hwy 124 at the bridge proved ineffective and was not maintained over the years since it was first reported. The Whitestone Public Works manager is working with the MTO to address the issue
- Juliette Terry suggested we ensure that Public Works is aware of the Japanese knotweed on Maple Island Road to prevent the roadside cutters from risking spread through cutting
- Some discussion on by-laws for invasive plant species was discussed. It may prove beneficial to modify the existing noxious weed by-law to include invasive plants

5.5 Septic Health

- Councillor Beth Gorham-Matthews will make arrangements to have Robin Allen attend a WESC meeting to speak with us on septic permits, policies and education and possible enforcement of voluntary or mandatory septic re-inspection programs
- The Whitestone Newsletter in November will have septic information regarding DO's and DON'TS for our ratepayers

5.6 Walking Trail Education

- No further updates beyond the addition of the Boot Brushes

5.7 Lake Management Plan

- From the August meeting, CAO Michelle Hendry is in support of making this aspect of our work a Budget Item for 2022, and hiring a Planner to help us become proactive vs reactive on items that develop, providing us with a robust plan. We are still working on finding a Lake Management Planner
- From the August meeting, Lynn Brennan and Brad Parkes will join this sub-committee
- Dennis Morrison has tested 7 lakes this past August
- Dennis is hopeful to collaborate his findings with the Index Netting completed by the MNRF on Whitestone Lake this summer
- Dennis' findings on Whitestone Lake point to higher lake water temperatures with lower dissolved oxygen levels. Within a 2 week period the temperature was higher by 10 degrees, and after a 6 week span of time the temperatures still had not dropped the 10 degree increase.
- Dennis is still waiting for the publication on phosphorus levels
- Dennis has submitted surveys and questionnaires for the sub-committee to develop a questionnaire for lake management for Whitestone

6. **CORRESPONDENCE** - None

7. **ANNOUNCEMENTS OR OTHER NEW BUSINESS**

- Google Drive has confirmed to be installed and information is being added regularly for the WESC to access and share. All members are Editors and should be able to add material.
- The Whitestone Environmental Stewardship Committee has been added to the municipal website so people can get to know us and what we are doing
- ICECAP has been working with many of the municipalities in our area. We discussed their objectives and agreed that the cost of participating is minimal when considering the benefits for everyone (suggested to be around \$2,500). It was agreed that Councillor Beth Gorham-Matthews will set up a presentation for this committee
- Discussion on a spring education day resulted in an acceptance to plan a series of talks or webinars on many of our focus points such as septic health, boater safety (OPP Marine Unit), MNRF addressing natural environment issues. Ian Crawford will contact FOCA to see what might be involved in organizing an event. (FOCA runs this sort of thing twice a year)
- Reminder of the webinars hosted by Georgian Bay Forever and Georgian Bay Association. Theme focuses on Extreme Water Levels: Impacts and Strategies. Beth and Juliette attended the first one on October 23 on 'What's happening? What's new?' They are free webinars focused on Georgian Bay but with applicable information for all areas. The second is on November 13 'Shorelines and Shoreline Structures' and the last is on December 4 on 'Septics, Insurance and Businesses'. Free to sign up and watch through Zoom.

8. **NEXT MEETING** - to be held pending the arrangements for guest speakers, Robin Allen, North-Bay Mattawa Conservation Authority and Integrated Community Energy and Climate Action Plans (ICECAP).

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

This meeting be adjourned at 8:30 p.m. until the call of the Chair.

Councillor Beth Gorham-Matthews

Chair

Juliette Terry

Secretary



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**Minutes of the Whitestone Environmental Stewardship Committee meeting
held on Wednesday, November 10, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.
via Zoom Video Conferencing and Phone-In**

Present: Lynn Brennan
Councillor Beth Gorham-Matthews
Councillor Joe McEwen
Dennis Morrison
Brad Parkes
Juliette Terry
David West

Regrets: Ian Crawford
Anne Wright
Rob Morrison
Patricia Moleirinho
Scott Nash

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1. CALL TO ORDER

Councillor Beth Gorham-Matthews called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Indigenous Land Acknowledgement Statement

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This acknowledgment of the land is a declaration of our commitment and collective responsibility to reconcile the past, and to honour and value the culture, history and relationships we have with one another.

2. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

Councillor Beth Gorham-Matthews requested that any pecuniary interest be declared for the record. None declared.

3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

2021-10ESC Moved by David West
Seconded by Lynn Brennan

WHEREAS the members of the Environmental Stewardship Committee have been presented with the Agenda for this meeting;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Agenda for this meeting be adopted as presented and circulated. **Carried**

4. PRESENTATION AND DELEGATION

- 4.1 Dr. Becky Pollock and Isabelle Moy, Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve (GBBR) Daryle Moffatt and Forrest Pengra, Integrated Community Energy and Climate Action Plans (ICECAP), Co-Chairs

Summary:

- ICECAP Membership for 2022 will be \$2575 (up from \$2500 two years previous)
- It will soon become mandatory to do the work of greenhouse gas emissions reduction
- Costs to do this work could run higher than \$50 thousand, but being part of ICECAP allows cost sharing of larger expenses, reducing this cost significantly, by half or more. The more members there are the less expensive it will be for all
- With Conference of the Parties (COP26) and carbon tax, and the cost of fossil fuel products continuously increasing, these measures make financial sense as the savings have the potential to pay for the action plan and even to create a cost savings
- GBBR and ICECAP are prepared to present the Municipality of Whitestone a Financial Business Case outlining estimates for our costs
- Committee met and formalized their recommendations for Council to adopt for 2022
- recognizant of keeping low cost and work load to staff and volunteers

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL

2021-11ESC Moved by Dennis Morrison
Seconded by Juliette Terry

THAT the Whitestone Environmental Stewardship Committee is recommending to the Council of the Municipality of Whitestone to reconsider the membership in ICECAP, and to receive presentation made by Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve and ICECAP on Whitestone's Financial Business Case.

5. NEXT MEETING - Wednesday, November 17, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

6. **ADJOURNMENT**

This meeting be adjourned at 8:25 p.m. until the call of the Chair.

Councillor Beth Gorham-Matthews

Chair

Juliette Terry

Secretary



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**Minutes of the Whitestone Environmental Stewardship Committee meeting
held on Wednesday, November 17, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.
via Zoom Video Conferencing and Phone-In**

Present: Lynn Brennan
Ian Crawford
Councillor Beth Gorham-Matthews
Councillor Joe McEwen
Dennis Morrison
Brad Parkes
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2. **DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**

Councillor Beth Gorham-Matthews requested that any pecuniary interest be declared for the record. None declared.

3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

2021-12ESC Moved by David West
Seconded by Dennis Morrison

WHEREAS the members of the Environmental Stewardship Committee have been presented with the Agenda for this meeting;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Agenda for this meeting be adopted as presented and circulated. **Carried**

4. PRESENTATION AND DELEGATION

4.1 Robin Allen, Manager, On-site Sewage System Program – North-Bay Mattawa Conservation Authority

Robin Allen explained what the role of the North- Bay Mattawa Conservation Authority has with the Municipality of Whitestone in regards to septic permits.

There were discussions about:

- variety of maintenance and re-inspection programs that a Municipality could adopt and what can be done under the building code
- education pieces that the Municipality could share with the rate payers as they do not understand or know how to maintain their septic system
- common issues found at re-inspections and whether they can impact/relate to lake water quality and ground water
- who could run a re-inspection program and what it would look like
- what other municipalities are doing to ensure healthy septic systems in their communities. Further research will be completed prior to the next meeting
- the Environmental Stewardship Committee will determine steps for 2022 at next meeting

5. NEXT MEETING - Wednesday, December 8, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

6. ADJOURNMENT

This meeting be adjourned at 8:55 p.m. until the call of the Chair.

Councillor Beth Gorham-Matthews

Chair

Juliette Terry

Secretary