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**Land Use Planning and Development Committee Terms of Reference**

**Mandate:**

The Committee’s mandate is to support achievement of the Association mission, as follows:

* Protect and improve the natural environment of the Lake to ensure the year-round enjoyment by all users

**Goals/Priorities:**

The goal of the Committee will be to advocate for responsible development on the Lake, in alignment with the overall mission of the WWKCA.

There are two priorities that the Committee will be responsible for achieving, as follows:

* Actively participate in the review of the Whitestone Official Plan to ensure proposed changes align with the WWKCA's mission and goals.
* Monitor, assess and respond to development applications with respect to their alignment with the mission and goals of the Association.

**Accountability:**

The Committee will be accountable to the Lake WahWashKesh Conservation Association Board of Directors for achievement of its goals.  The Committee will conduct its operations consistent with established Board policies.

As well, the Committee will liaise regularly with the Lake Plan Taskforce/Environment Committee to ensure an exchange of information to maximize their efficiency and effectiveness as well as to align their work.

**Deliverables:**

The specific requirements of the Committee are as follows:

1. **Represent WWKCA in the Review of the Whitestone Official Plan**: The Committee will work collaboratively with Association members, the Lake Plan Taskforce/Environment Committee and municipal representatives to ensure that the interests of the Lake are reflected in the Official Plan of the Municipality of Whitestone.
2. **Review of Approval Body Agendas:** The Committee will monitor the agendas of Whitestone Council and the Parry Sound Area Planning Board to identify items of significance to the WWKCA (including development applications, changes to the Official Plan and new or amended by-laws) and conduct a review and assessment of the potential implications.
3. **Assess and Report on Development Applications:**The Committee will conduct evidence-based reviews of development applications/by-laws and provide comments and recommendations to minimize the risks of development to the natural environment.  This includes new development as well as modifications to existing properties. The Committee will represent WWKCA and present any concerns and recommendations regarding such applications at municipal or other meetings where applications are reviewed/approved by government agencies such as Whitestone Municipal Council, the Parry Sound Area Planning Board, or other relevant bodies.
4. **Build Awareness:**The Committee will educate and build awareness on how development can impact the natural environment and potential measures to mitigate these impacts.  Since we are all stewards of the Lake, this education and awareness will equip residents to make changes in a manner that will preserve the quality of the Lake.
5. **Act as a** **Resource on Development Requirements**: The Committee will act as a resource for members about development on the Lake in terms of required approvals, enforcement agencies, etc.
6. **Liaison with Relevant Agencies:** The Committee will liaise and build relationships with relevant agencies to effectively fulfill its role. This includes the Municipality, enforcement agencies, approval bodies, etc.

**Approach:**

The WWKCA recognizes that maintaining the balance of the many interests that intersect on the lake is very complex.  The Committee will operate in an inclusive and consultative manner, ensuring that the range of interests on the lake are considered when conducting their reviews and presenting reports and recommendations.

**Composition:**

The Committee will be comprised equally of members from the Top Lake and Big Lake as well as a representative from the Narrows, to ensure appropriate representation and in recognition of the unique characteristics.

The Chair of the Committee will be either a Director of the Association or a member volunteer. In the case of a member volunteer assuming the role of Chair, an Association Director will be a member of the Committee.

Members with a strong interest in participating in the review and assessment of development applications and in the review of the Whitestone Official plan, are encouraged to participate. As well, WWKCA members with knowledge or expertise in one or more of the following areas would be an asset:

* Land Use planning
* Environmental Sciences
* Evidence Based Research/statistics
* Other Science related backgrounds
* Government relations
* Land Development