



# Waskesiu Community Association Inc.

## Annual General Meeting

**TERRACE GARDENS**  
**August 7, 2022**

### MEETING MINUTES

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#### 2022 Councillors – Waskesiu Community Council

Jim Kerby, Chair <i>Cottage Owners Representative</i>	Rob Phillips <i>Cabin Owners Representative</i>	Jacqueline Archer <i>Permanent Residents Representative</i>	Linda Lavallee <i>Business Owners Representative</i>
Jennifer Wood <i>Member at Large</i>	Bentley Crozier <i>Member at Large</i>	Bob Cyr <i>Member at Large</i>	

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Attending: There were over 175 members of the Waskesiu Community Association attending. In addition, representing Parks Canada Agency, Acting Field Unit Superintendent Jennifer Duquette, Townsite Manager Gregg Rutten and Assent Manager Christine Hamilton were also present for the Question & Answer session with Parks Canada Agency that followed the AGM.

#### 1. Call to Order & Welcome - Waskesiu Community Council Chair - Jim Kerby

**Land Acknowledgement** - On behalf of the Waskesiu community we acknowledge that we are on Treaty 6 Territory and the Homeland of the Métis. We pay our respect to the First Nation and Métis ancestors of this special place, and reaffirm our relationship with one another.

#### 2. Adoption of the 2022 AGM Meeting Agenda

*Brian Morgan/Sheila Gagne*

*Carried*

#### 3. Brief Introduction of 2022 Waskesiu Community Council Members & Administrator

The Chair introduced, and then thanked, each of the Councillors and the Council Administrator.

The Chair then thanked all the meeting attendees who took the time to be with us here today - your support is greatly appreciated.

Thank you to Acting Superintendent Jennifer Duquette, and Townsite Manager Gregg Rutten, of Parks Canada Agency for taking time on a weekend to be with us, and to answer our questions.

Thanks to the WSRA Board for agreeing to hold their Association's Annual General Meeting on the same day as the Council AGM. It's important for everyone to understand that the Waskesiu Community Council (the proper legal name of which is the Waskesiu Community Association) is a separate legal entity from the Waskesiu Seasonal Residents Association. Our members are similar but not identical, and we have different mandates. Regardless, we hope that you folks like and appreciate this format rather than holding two separate annual general meetings on two separate days.

A special thank you to Noreen Matthews - Council's Administrator - for keeping us all organized and on track.

Thanks again to all our Councillors - and a special shout-out to Councillor Linda Lavallee (who is recovering well from a stroke earlier this year). We are very proud of you Linda - keep up the great work as you return to 100% health.

Finally, a warm welcome to our newest Councillor, Bob Cyr! Bob won the recent by election which was hotly contested. We look forward to working with you Bob!

As always, we have some procedural matters to get through on our Agenda - hopefully very quickly - after which there will be a very brief Chair's report, followed by a Q&A session with Council.

After our meeting there is a Q&A session scheduled from 10-11 am at which Parks Canada Agency representatives will provide a brief presentation and then answer questions that have been submitted in advance. Time permitting, they may be able to take some questions from the floor as well.

From 11 until noon will be the annual general meeting of the Waskesiu Seasonal Residents Association.

After that meeting please remember to support the Waskesiu Volunteer Fire Department fundraising BBQ - it's just outside - and if you present your ticket that you received upon registration for this meeting you will get a drink, and a burger or hot dog, for just a Toonie.

#### **4. Adoption of the 2021 Annual General Meeting Minutes**

**Proposed Motion:**

*"That the Minutes of the 2021 Annual General Meeting of the Corporation, in the form presented to this Annual General Meeting, be and the same are hereby approved and adopted."*

***Dan Boehm/Greg Cowell***

***Carried***

#### **5. Financial Reporting (Treasurer, Jennifer Wood)**

**• Presentation and Adoption of the 2021/2022 Financial Statements of the Corporation:**

**Proposed Motion:**

*"That the Financial Statements for the most recent fiscal year of the Corporation, in the form prepared by Virtus Group LLP and presented to this Annual General Meeting, be and the same are hereby approved and adopted."*

*Wayne Simpson/Todd Peterson*

*Carried*

- **Waiver of Appointment of Auditor / Appointment of Virtus Group LLP to prepare Review Engagement Financial Statements:**

**Proposed Motion:**

*“That the Corporation dispense with the appointment of an auditor for the current fiscal year and appoint Virtus Group LLP to prepare the Corporation's financial statements for the current fiscal year on a review engagement basis, with Virtus Group LLP's remuneration to be determined by the Board of Directors of the Corporation.”*

*Stephanie Murphy/Greg Cowell*

*Carried*

- 6. Chair’s Year-End Report & Waskesiu Vision 2028 Community Action Plan – Waskesiu Community Council Chair - Jim Kerby**

The last 12 months have been very busy for your Community Council. In that regard, I want to start by thanking my Council colleagues for all of their hard work and dedication.

Some of the accomplishments include the following:

- (1) finalizing the Waskesiu Vision 2028 Community Action Plan
- (2) adopting a Land Acknowledgment to support reconciliation and to pay our respects to the First Nation and Métis ancestors of this very special place
- (3) meeting with local Member of Parliament Gary Vidal
- (4) completing, in conjunction with PCA, the new Yard Waste Directive for the Waskesiu townsite
- (5) providing ongoing input into development of an updated parking strategy for portions of the Waskesiu townsite
- (6) working with PCA to help monitor and support corrections to the swales in the cabin area
- (7) provided financial support to the Waskesiu Foundation and the Waskesiu Chamber of Commerce
- (8) established a Communications Protocol with Parks Canada Agency for urgent and emerging issues
- (9) confirmed the ability for certain cottage residents to hook into existing deep water lines subject to certain conditions.
- (10) held a successful - and contested - by election.

We have also considered and recommended the 2022 water, sewer, and garbage fees, and considered townsite issues that include drinking water quality, waste management, the Waskesiu volunteer Fire Department, tree removal, and the lack of school bus services for residents of Waskesiu townsite. We also receive regular townsite reports from Parks Canada Agency, the Waskesiu RCMP Detachment, and consider numerous issues that affect Waskesiu’s residents and businesses.

Given the fact we are short on time, however, I want to emphasize the importance of our Waskesiu “Vision 2028” strategic planning process - a Council led initiative advanced in conjunction with Parks Canada Agency and with input from all of the key stakeholder groups in Waskesiu.

The resulting “Implementation Strategy” (called the Community Action Plan) was excellent. I urge you to take the time to read this important document - which I commend to you - that looks to our collective future. This iteration of the Community Action Plan is designed to culminate in a celebration of Waskesiu in 2028 - marking the 100th anniversary of the official opening of the Park back in August of 1928. The Community Action Plan can be found on [waskesiu.org](http://waskesiu.org).

## **7. Question and Answer Session (for Community Council)**

This is your opportunity to ask your Community Council any questions you want, so we are going to open up the floor for that purpose right now. If we can answer your question today we definitely will, and if not we promise to get back to you.

*Member Question - submitted pre-meeting:* What is the status of pursuing the idea or creating a municipality for the community?

*Council Answer:* Currently nobody on the Council, the WSRA or PCA are pursuing the idea of Waskesiu becoming a municipality.

### **Member Questions from the Floor**

*Member Question #1:* This is related to climate change – in the past week there were tornado warnings which included PANP and Waskesiu Lake. This is the first time ever the warnings were for Waskesiu. The storm came very near to our townsite and created a lot of damage but it never got to Waskesiu. What is being done to prepare for this? Is there a plan in place?

*Member Question #2:* In the event of a tornado, how would we deal with the impact to Waskesiu?

*Council Answer:* Council is currently working with Parks Canada on an emergency communications protocol but we have not specifically dealt with the effects of climate change. We are also working on a plan of how to reach the highest percentage of residents to evacuate the townsite in the event of a fire or other catastrophic event.

*Member Comment:* A siren would be useful.

*Member Comment:* PCA has an emergency communication plan. In this townsite the Lakeview Hotel underground parking garage is probably the best “safe haven” location in the event of a tornado or similar event. This member suggested that Council does not try to develop a plan. PCA and the Waskesiu Fire Department do have a plan in place.

*Member Question:* Has there been any discussion with Environment Canada or Parks Canada to establish a bank of solar panels bank in Waskesiu?

*Council Answer:* It has not come on Council’s agenda but will be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

*Member Question:* Can we put a measure in place how to track how our animals and the ecosystem are being protected? I suggest setting up an environmental committee. And how can residents volunteer?

*Council Answer:* Council appreciates the input and will take all this into consideration.

*Member Question:* Is there a similar community council operating in the other national parks?

*Council Answer:* Not certain, but probably not.

*Member Question:* Is there a plan to build an off leash dog park in Waskesiu?

*Council Answer:* Yes, a report is being developed by PCA, and it is on the Vision 2028 Community Action Plan.

*Member Question:* The road up to the golf course needs fixing, and what is the plan to prevent further damage?

*Council Answer:* This item is on Parks Canada's list and on the Vision 2028 Community Action Plan. Some repair is planned soon.

*Member Question:* Deep water lines – Where do the current lines run in the townsite?

*Council Answer:* Parks Canada will be creating a map of the townsite showing where the existing deep water lines run and it will be communicated to everyone by posting it on the [waskesiu.org](http://waskesiu.org) website.

*Member Comment:* The Waskesiu Marina sent out a letter stating they will not be providing any personal safety or boat retrieval service on the lakes. The letter stated that PCA would probably go out and retrieve people in a life threatening emergency situation, but would not retrieve their water craft. The safety of boaters needs to be addressed.

*Council Answer:* This issue will be on our next meeting agenda. It may also be addressed by PCA today during their Q & A session.

## **7. Final Announcements**

After this meeting, please stay for a brief presentation by, and a Question and Answer session with, representatives of Parks Canada Agency - including Acting PANP Field Unit Superintendent Jennifer Duquette, and Townsite Manager Gregg Rutten. Scheduled time is 10-11 am. The Question and Answer Session with PCA will be followed by the Annual General Meeting of the Waskesiu Seasonal Residents Association from 11 am to 12 noon. Please remember to support the Waskesiu Volunteer Fire Department fundraising BBQ - it's going to be held just outside this building on Lakeview Drive right after the WSRA annual meeting. If you present your ticket that you received upon registration for this meeting you will get a burger or hot dog, and a drink, for just a Toonie!

## **8. Adjournment**

*Dan Boehm - Carried*

**9:56 a.m.**