

# Environmental Task Force Agenda

9:00 a.m. - Tuesday, April 29, 2025

Council Chambers

[Zoom Link](#)

## 1. Call to Order

## 2. Traditional Land Acknowledgement

We begin this gathering by acknowledging and celebrating these traditional lands as a gathering place of the first peoples and their ancestors who are entrusted to care for Mother Earth since time immemorial. We do so respecting both the land and the Indigenous People who continue to walk with us through this world. Today, the Township of North Frontenac is committed to working with Indigenous Peoples and all residents to pursue a united path of reconciliation.

## 3. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof

## 4. Environmental Task Force Notes

- a) Notes of the Environmental Task Force Meeting dated March 25, 2025 as approved via email and being received for information at the April 25, 2025 Regular Meeting of Council. 2 - 5

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## 5. Business Arising

- a) Work Plan Update 6 - 10
  1. Battery Storage Opportunities - John Inglis, Paul Asselin and Marlene Spruyt (see Admin Report below)
  2. Net Metering - John Inglis, Paul Asselin and Marlene Spruyt
  3. Invasive Species - Roy Huetl, Fred Fowler and Mike Ward
  4. Septic Inspection Programs - Bruce Moore, Kate Surra, Roy Huetl and Fred Fowler (see Admin Report below)
  5. Carrying Capacity of Lakes - Bruce Moore, Kate Surra, Ange Defosse and Mike Ward
  6. Short-term Rentals - Bruce Moore, Kate Surra, Ange Defosse and John Inglis

[1. Admin Report to Council - Battery Energy Storage Investigation - Pdf](#)

[4. Admin Report to Council- Mandatory Septic Inspection Proposal - Pdf](#)

- b) 2025 Invasive Species Forum: Detecting and Controlling Phragmites - Update from Public Works Manager

## 6. New Business

## 7. Adjournment

- a) Meeting adjourned at \_\_\_\_\_ a.m.



# Environmental Task Force Minutes

9:00 AM - Tuesday, March 25, 2025

Council Chambers

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**Present:** Councillor Roy Huetl (Chair); Deputy Mayor John Inglis; Councillor Fred Fowler; Paul Asselin; Ange Defosse; Marlene Spruyt; Mike Ward; Katie Surra; and Pat McCarron.

**Absent with Regret:** Bruce Moore; Darwyn Sproule, Public Works Manager, P. Eng.

**Also Present:** Tara Mieske, Clerk/Planning Manager, Dipl.M.A. Dipl.M.M.

## 1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

## 2. Traditional Land Acknowledgement

We begin this gathering by acknowledging and celebrating these traditional lands as a gathering place of the first peoples and their ancestors who are entrusted to care for Mother Earth since time immemorial. We do so respecting both the land and the Indigenous People who continue to walk with us through this world. Today, the Township of North Frontenac is committed to working with Indigenous Peoples and all residents to pursue a united path of reconciliation.

## 3. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof

None declared.

## 4. Environmental Task Force Notes

- a) ***Notes of the Environmental Task Force Meeting dated February 25, 2025, as approved via email and received for information at the March 14, 2025, Regular Meeting of Council.***

## 5. Business Arising

- a) ***Work Plan Update***

### **1. Battery Storage Opportunities - John Inglis, Paul Asselin and Marlene Spruyt**

Deputy Mayor Inglis advised there hasn't been a lot of progress since the last Task Force Meeting. He noted the one company is interested in providing an information session and he would like to include the Mayor and CAO when this is arranged.

It was noted a resolution of Council is not required prior to a project being considered. If a

company would like to pursue a project in North Frontenac they would prepare a presentation to Council.

Deputy Mayor Inglis is going to work with the Sub-Committee and prepare an information report to Council on battery storage projects including opportunities, benefits and risks.

## **2. Net Metering - John Inglis, Paul Asselin and Marlene Spruyt**

Deputy Mayor Inglis advised he has received some preliminary information from one of the companies he contacted about installing solar panels to cover all electricity use at the Township office/Ward 2 garage complex. He will provide further information to the Task Force at an upcoming meeting.

## **3. Invasive Species - Roy Huetl, Fred Fowler and Mike Ward**

Councillor Huetl advised he is still waiting for a date for the meeting with Addington Highlands, Mazinaw Lake Association and federal and provincial representatives. He noted he spoke with a biologist from the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters who advised Eurasian Milfoil is near the bottom of the list for invasive species in the Province. He noted there may not be value in expending a lot of resources as new and worse species are spreading and a natural equilibrium will occur.

## **4. Septic Inspection Programs - Bruce Moore, Kate Surra, Roy Huetl and Fred Fowler**

Councillor Huetl advised there was a meeting of the sub-committee and it was decided to recommend to Council a mandatory septic inspection for all properties which were recently sold. There could be some exceptions for properties which have septic systems that are less than 10 years old or have been inspected in the last 3 years. The inspector will need to have a valid BCIN number and be qualified to complete inspections. Information on the mandatory inspection requirements can be provided by local real estate agents, Township staff if contacted during the sale process (zoning compliance, tax certificates, etc.), or through Township communication channels. Councillor Huetl will prepare a report to Council recommending staff complete a Mandatory Septic Inspection By-law to implement inspections when a property is transferred. The sub-committee also discussed requiring septic inspections for short-term rentals and suggested the sub-committee for short-term rentals consider this.

The sub-committee also discussed opportunities to educate the public on septic system health. The next Quarterly Newsletter will focus on healthy septic systems and make residents aware of the voluntary septic inspection program. Information will be provided to Defosse to assist with creating the newsletter. The newsletter will be circulated to Lake Associations, local businesses, added to the Township's social media and the website and posted at Township facilities.

The North Frontenac Lake Association Alliance (NFLAA) is going to set-up an information table at Summerfest and invite Eric Kohlsmith to attend to provide education on septic system health. The NFLAA is also going to encourage residents to participate in the

voluntary septic program this summer to try and increase participation.

**5. Carrying Capacity of Lakes - Bruce Moore, Kate Surra, Ange Defosse and Mike Ward**

No updates.

**6. Short-term Rentals - Bruce Moore, Kate Surra, Ange Defosse and John Inglis**

Deputy Mayor Inglis is currently trying to coordinate a meeting with the sub-committee.

**b) Quarterly Newsletter -Received Council Approval - March 14, 2025**

The first newsletter was well received by Council and they approved the Task Force completing quarterly newsletters on environmental themes. The first newsletter is set to be circulated on April 1st. The Task Force will need to consider future topics they wish to include in upcoming newsletters. As previously discussed the summer newsletter will focus on septic system health.

**c) Expansion of the Community Improvement Program (CIP)**

The Task Force discussed adding an additional program to the CIP for environmental improvements (i.e. local businesses adding solar panels). Councillor Huetl advised he would bring this forward during the 2026 budget discussions which will be held in the fall of 2025.

**d) 2025 Invasive Species Forum: Detecting and Controlling Phragmites - Update from Public Works Manager**

Deferred to the next Task Force Meeting.

**6. New Business**

**a) Ardoch Waste Site**

The Task Force recommended this topic be added to the next agenda for discussion. The Public Works Manager will provide an update on the potential re-opening of the site.

**b) Recycling Programs for Wind Turbines or Solar Panels**

It was noted the wind turbine and solar panel industries who have expertise on these materials are working out details on the recycling of materials from these.

**7. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 10:28 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for April 29, 2025 at 9:00 am.

**8. Recommendations**

**Be It Resolved That** Council receives for information the Minutes of a Meeting of the Environmental Task Force dated March 25, 2025.

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Councillor Roy Huetl, Chair,  
Environmental Task Force

**To:** Mayor and Members of Council  
**From:** John Inglis, Deputy Mayor  
**Approved by:**  
**Date of Meeting:** 25 Apr 2025  
**Re:** Environmental Task Force - Battery Energy Storage Investigation

### Recommendation:

**Be it Resolved That** Council receives for information Deputy Mayor John Inglis' Administrative Report entitled "Battery Energy Storage Investigation", on behalf of the Environmental Task Force";

**And That** Council directs Staff and the Environmental Task Force to continue discussions with potential proponents and that an update with options be provided to Council in the future for discussion;

**And That** once more information is obtained and provided to Council for consideration a process will be initiated seeking public input from North Frontenac rate payers to assist Council in determining whether or not there is interest in being a willing host for a Battery Energy Storage System in North Frontenac Township.

### Background:

The Environmental Task Force has formed several sub-groups looking at specific interest areas: septic systems, short term rentals, community gardens, lake capacity, green energy initiatives. The green energy sub-group is looking at ways that North Frontenac could be involved in projects which reduce carbon dioxide emissions while bringing financial benefits to the township. One rapidly expanding technology in Ontario is the installation of utility-scale battery energy storage connected directly to high voltage transmission lines. Batteries are charged when there is excess power, drained when there is high demand. This usually happens in a daily cycle. The owner of the facility earns income based on the power rate difference; it buys cheap power overnight when demand is low, then sells it back at a higher rate when demand peaks in the morning and evening. The other option the provincial utility has for providing this peaking power is to build more gas-fired generating plants, which can be turned on and off quickly. Battery energy storage systems (acronym BESS) have the advantage of being carbon neutral in operation, and being cheaper and more reliable.

This is all happening as the Province of Ontario has recognized a need for a greatly expanded electricity system in the near future. The need for more electrical energy is driven by increasing electrification of industrial processes, by a growing population, by electric vehicles and by data storage and AI needs. The Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) is tasked with making this happen, under direct supervision of the provincial Ministry of Energy, Conservation and Parks. Currently IESO has issued a procurement process (LT2) to private sector developers, known as proponents. This LT2 request for proposals is focused strongly on renewable energy generation and electricity storage, with some need for gas-fired generation and nuclear expansion as well. Companies are invited to propose projects, which IESO will evaluate and award contracts for. For the

purposes of projects that might affect North Frontenac, this report considers the battery storage (BESS) option.

The current LT2 process requires that any proponent have pre-approval from the host municipality in the form of a 'willing host' resolution from Council. The attitudes of many municipalities have changed in the last 10 years, so that there is now competition to attract renewable projects of all three types (wind, solar, storage) from private developers. A BESS project in North Frontenac would be situated on private land (individual or township owned), would require up to 8 hectare in area, and would need to be located near the southern-most of the four transmission lines traversing the township. Financially it would provide lease payments plus 'community benefits' probably in the \$100,000 per year range. A BESS installation would feed up to 100 megawatts into the electrical grid, enough to power about 4500 homes at peak load

Renewable energy projects are widely recognized as the cheapest way to expand generation capacity. When combined with storage, they are able to provide power when needed without the need to bring 'peaking' gas-powered generation on line. The whole movement toward renewable energy is driven by the urgent need to cut back on carbon dioxide emissions into the atmosphere. The township has recognized this need in its declaration of a climate emergency in 2022.

### **Current Status**

The LT2 procurement process is expected to be announced in a few weeks, after a delay from December 2024. Proponents will likely have until December 2025 to submit proposals, and then IESO will select from among these submissions. Deputy Mayor Inglis has been communicating with two companies about possibilities in North Frontenac. Before any more substantive discussion occurs with staff, Council needs to pass a resolution stating that North Frontenac is willing to consider the possibility of a BESS project and directs staff and the Environmental Task Force to continue such discussions and to report regularly to Council. Also that the township will seek public comment as early as possible.

### **Researched By:**

Deputy Mayor John Inglis and the Environmental Task Force.

### **Comments:**

North Frontenac is currently being considered by two companies for a battery energy storage (BESS) facility. Such a facility would generate substantial new revenues for the township, for the landowner, and likely for our emergency services in the form of training and equipment. In future location-based hydro rates, North Frontenac would benefit from lower energy rates due to its being a 'generation hub'. Such a project also contributes locally to global de-carbonization efforts aimed at mitigating climate change.

There would be a number of steps following potential passing of the attached resolution:

1. A public input process must be initiated.
2. The proponents must identify willing landowners.
3. The proponents must decide if a submission is worth preparing.
4. The Township would engage legal advice in negotiating a financial agreement.
5. The Township must decide if terms of safety, environmental protection, financial compensation and site restoration are adequate.
6. The Township must pass a 'willing host' resolution.
7. A proponent must win a bid from IESO.

### **Financial Impact:**

A battery project (BESS) would provide a net financial benefit to the township in the form of taxation, lease payments, community benefits, plus likely emergency service training and equipment. Ongoing employment would be minimal.

**To:** Mayor and Members of Council  
**From:** Roy Huetl, Councillor  
**Approved by:**  
**Date of Meeting:** 25 Apr 2025  
**Re:** Environmental Task Force - Mandatory Septic Inspection Proposal

### Recommendation:

**Be It Resolved That** Council receives for information Councillor Huetl's Administrative Report entitled "Environmental Task Force - Mandatory Septic Inspection Proposal " on behalf of the Environmental Task Force;

**And That** Council instructs the Clerk/Planning Manager and Public Works Manager to complete research on a potential mandatory septic inspection program on properties at the time of sale and report back to Council for future consideration;

**And That** the costs for Solicitor's advice is to be taken from the Operating Contingency Reserve.

### Background:

Council approved the 2025 work plan for the Environmental Task Force on November 22, 2024 which included Environmental Stewardship, Protection and Regeneration - Septic Inspection Programs - potential policy and education.

A sub-committee was formed with the following members: Councillor Huetl, Councillor Fowler, Bruce Moore, and Katie Surra and to research potential policies and education opportunities. Guests were invited to the sub-committees as required to assist with providing information to assist the sub-committee.

### Researched By:

Environmental Task Force and Septic Inspection Programs Sub-Committee

### Comments:

The Environmental Task Force Work Plan includes researching and investigating the need for mandatory septic inspections in North Frontenac. This has been a topic of discussion not only in this Council but previous Councils. The Environmental Task Force believes that ensuring all septic systems are functioning properly and not contaminating our ground and surface water is critical to protecting public health and our natural environment.

The Ontario Building Code governs compliance of septic system regulations. The code stipulates that all systems are maintained and inspected to prevent environmental and health concerns. A septic system that is functioning properly and has had inspections done on a regular basis has great value

to a homeowner. Having proactive inspections benefits the homeowner by addressing any smaller issues before major financial implications arise.

The Environmental Task Force understands the difficulty of administering such a large program, and is aware of the time commitment of staff. We are proposing a phased-in program to achieve our initiative by requiring mandatory inspections on all homes when there is a real estate transaction involving a transfer of ownership. We are recommending exceptions for: 1- homes that have systems installed or have an inspection report within the past 10 years of the sale date; 2- or if a transfer is made between family members. These inspections would include both water and non-waterfront dwellings.

It is proposed that the program be reviewed after one year of implementation. Further steps to full mandatory inspection will continue to be discussed and addressed as the first phase progresses by the Environmental Task Force.

The Environmental Task Force continues to support and promote the North Frontenac Township Volunteer Septic Inspection program. The Task Force believes that implementing a mandatory septic inspection program will further enhance efforts to protect public health and the environment.

Research that will need to be completed as part of drafting the By-law includes:

- Solicitor advice on applicable legislation, limitations, etc.
- How sales data can be obtained for use (Teranet)
- Qualifications for inspectors (BCIN #) and inspection requirements
- Options for educating the public on the mandatory inspection program
- Procedural considerations (notification to new property owner, records management, follow-up, etc.)
- Enforcement
- Costs (administration, enforcement, etc.)

### **Financial Impact:**

There will be staff time required to complete the research. There will also be costs to obtain legal advice which are unknown at this time. These costs are proposed to be taken from the North Frontenac Contingency Reserve with a proposed year-end balance of \$1,161,089.30 per the 2025 budget.

### **Strategic Implications:**

Environmental Stewardship - Establish an Environmental Task Force to develop and promote programs to protect the environment. The Environmental Task Force's work plan includes developing potential policies and education on septic inspection programs.