



NOTICE OF MEETING AND AGENDA ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, February 12, 2025, 5:30 PM
Village Office, 495 Hot Springs Road,
Harrison Hot Springs, BC V0M 1K0

THIS MEETING WILL BE CONDUCTED IN-PERSON AND VIA ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE

1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by Councillor Schweinbenz, Chair.
Acknowledgement of Sts'ailes traditional territory.
Roundtable introductions.

2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

- (a) THAT the Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting minutes of August 7, 2024 be adopted. Page 1

5. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

- (a) Urban Forest Master Plan

Referred to the Committee at the January 16, 2025 Special/Committee of the Whole Meeting. Available online [here](#), printed copies can be made available for the Committee upon request.

- (b) Copy of Report to Council of Community Services Manager dated February 3, 2025 Page 5
Re: Environmental Open House
- (c) Meeting Dates and Times

6. ADJOURNMENT

Amanda Graham
Corporate Officer

**VILLAGE OF HARRISON HOT SPRINGS
MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

DATE: Wednesday, August 7, 2024
TIME: 9:00 a.m.
PLACE: Council Chambers, Village Office
495 Hot Springs Road, Harrison Hot Springs, BC

IN ATTENDANCE: Leo Facio, Chair
Susan Galvao
Cheri Norris
Mark Schweinbenz
Gary Webster

Amanda Graham, Corporate Officer
Jace Hodgson, Director of Operations (until 9:41 a.m.)

ABSENT:

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Facio called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.
Chair Facio acknowledged the traditional territory of Sts'ailes.

2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS

The Corporate Officer requested to add "Update on Herbicide Signs and BC Hydro Power Line" as Item for Discussion 5(b).

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Mark Schweinbenz
Seconded by Cheri Norris

THAT the agenda be approved as amended.

**CARRIED
UNANIMOUSLY**
EAC-2024-08-01

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by Cheri Norris
Seconded by Susan Galvao

THAT the Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting minutes of July 10, 2024 be adopted.

**CARRIED
UNANIMOUSLY**
EAC-2024-08-02

5. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

- (a) Tree Risk Assessment Report from Urban Environment Ltd. dated July 16, 2024
Re: Oak Trees on Lillooet Avenue

The Committee discussed the report extensively, summarized as follows:

- The condition of the trees may be a result of mismanagement, pruning and encroachment of packaged gravel
- The Village should adopt a more friendly urban forest policy
- The report is thorough, but no samples were taken to the laboratory
- There is also a safety concern for injury to people with the potential for falling branches
- When they were first planted, it was not in the right location with the right ground underneath
- The Village could benefit from a second opinion from a different arborist
- This report was a level 2 assessment and perhaps a more in-depth report is warranted
- If new trees are planted in this area, will they be just as susceptible to the same issues?
- Are there remedies for the covered root flares, soil compaction and volume, lack of irrigation and mechanical injury?
- There has been no remediation done since the first report, so the trees have continued to decline
- There is information about branch failure and die back in the report but no indication of how much or what would be considered an appropriate amount
- If they can be saved and made healthy again, the Village should try that first
- If it is not possible or is cost prohibitive, there could be concerns with the types of replacement trees chosen
- If the trees are to be removed and replaced, it would be helpful to see a timeline, budget and street plan
- Regular maintenance and assessments of the trees is required

The Director of Operations advised that field staff conduct visual inspections of trees and will request an arborist to assess them if necessary. There are staff who have training on tree health. Trimming is normally done by staff.

Discussion continued as follows:

- Insurance and liability concerns now that the trees have been identified as potentially dangerous
- If exposing the root flares, remediating the soil compaction, adding nutrients, fixing the irrigation and carefully pruning the trees can be done, that would be the preferred option

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Moved by Mark Schweinbenz
Seconded by Cheri Norris

THAT Council direct staff to look into remediation options for the trees to address issues with the roots, soil, and pruning and bring a report back to Council at the September 9, 2024 Regular Council Meeting; and

THAT Council direct staff to develop a tree assessment and maintenance program and schedule.

**CARRIED
UNANIMOUSLY**
EAC-2024-08-03

The Corporate Officer advised that this recommendation will form part of the staff report going before Council at the August 12, 2024 Regular Council Meeting.

(b) Update on Herbicide Signage and BC Hydro Power Line

The Corporate Officer advised that BC Hydro has no record of a live line going into the East Sector near Memorial Trail. The Committee requested further clarification which the Corporate Officer will seek from BC Hydro.

The Corporate Officer reported on a conversation with Kathy Ma Green, Executive Director of the Fraser Valley Invasive Species Society (FVISS) as follows:

- There are two crews who complete herbicide spraying in the Village, one is a highway crew that has to use Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure issued signage
- The other crew also has standard-issued signage of a certain size that cannot be altered due to limited funding, however, FVISS will add additional signage regarding knotweed which will make the signage more prominent
- It is a legislative requirement to use glyphosate within 10 metres of any public waterway, but privately owned land adjacent to a waterway is not subject to the same restriction
- Waterways are a key spread factor for knotweed as soaking the seed causes it to germinate faster
- FVISS is looking to map out knotweed on private land adjacent to the Miami River in the near future and the Environmental Advisory Committee may be able to assist
- There are permits that can be applied for to treat knotweed with aquatic herbicide alternatives to glyphosate

It was agreed that it would be beneficial to have a representative from FVISS attend a future Committee meeting.

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6. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Cheri Norris

Seconded by Gary Webster

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 10:00 am.

**CARRIED
UNANIMOUSLY**
EAC-2024-08-04

Leo Facio, Chair
Environmental Advisory Committee

Amanda Graham
Corporate Officer

File No: 0360-20-07
Date: February 3, 2025

To: Mayor and Council
From: Christy Ovens, Community Services Manager
Subject: Environmental Open House

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the planning of an Environmental Open House be referred to the Environmental Advisory Committee.

SUMMARY

To propose an opportunity for a community engagement event for Council's consideration.

BACKGROUND

In 2024, the Village hosted an Emergency Preparedness Open House, Health and Wellness Fair, and Community Open House. These events allowed several opportunities for community organizations to engage and inform residents. Except for the inclusion of the Miami River Streamkeepers Society and the Village's Environmental Advisory Committee at the Health and Wellness Fair, there haven't been opportunities for environmental-based organizations to be highlighted.

DISCUSSION

To build on the success of the open houses held in 2024 and continue to offer opportunities for residents to learn about community initiatives and gain valuable information, staff are recommending an Environmental Open House be planned for 2025. Potential invitees could include Recycling BC with a pop-up recycling initiative, GFL, Miami River Streamkeepers Society, Invasive Species Council of British Columbia, and BC Conservation Foundation, among others. Staff would like to suggest that this event could be held on or around Earth Day, depending on availability of community partners. Staff are recommending that Council refer this matter to the Environmental Advisory Committee for assistance in planning and organizing the event.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

There are no financial considerations at this time.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

2023 Strategic Plan Priorities

Healthy Livable Community – To promote and enhance a healthy lifestyle for all ages.

Environmental Protection – To restore and protect the environment for future generations.

Respectfully submitted:



Christy Owens
Community Services Manager

Reviewed by:



Tyson Koch
Chief Administrative Officer