

**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*

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**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



Councillor Mark Schweinbenz, Chair  
Environmental Advisory Committee



Amanda Graham  
Corporate Officer