

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

DATE: Wednesday, March 5, 2025
TIME: 5:30 p.m.
PLACE: Council Chambers, Village Office
495 Hot Springs Road, Harrison Hot Springs, BC

IN ATTENDANCE: Councillor Mark Schweinbenz, Chair
Mayor Fred Talen (ex-officio member)
John DeMartin
Susan Galvao
Paul Kandt (via Zoom)
Cheri Norris
Gary Webster

Amanda Graham, Corporate Officer
Christy Ovens, Community Services Manager

ABSENT:

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Schweinbenz called the meeting to order at 5:43 p.m.
Chair Schweinbenz acknowledged the traditional territory of Sts'ailes.

2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS

Cheri Norris requested to add "YouTube" and "Funds 2024/2025" as Items for Discussion 5(d) and (e).

Susan Galvao requested to add "Dike Upgrade" as Item for Discussion 5(f).

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Mayor Talen
Seconded by Gary Webster

THAT the agenda be approved as amended with the addition of the late items.

**CARRIED
UNANIMOUSLY**
EAC-2025-03-01

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by Mayor Talen
Seconded by Gary Webster

THAT the Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting minutes of February 12, 2025 be adopted as amended by removing "Cheri Norris" from the "In Attendance" section.

**CARRIED
UNANIMOUSLY**
EAC-2025-03-02

5. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

(a) Urban Forest Master Plan

The Committee discussed the following:

- Current and future staff training and certifications
- Union considerations
- A reporting system specific to trees so the public can advise of trees with empty water bags, danger trees, etc.
- What progress has been made to date on the urban tree canopy inventory, wildfire risk mitigation, tree management, regular maintenance and assessments, routine inspections, educational workshops, increased transparency to build trust with residents, explaining the importance of the benefits of proper tree care practices and planting native species on private lands
- Collaboration with the FVRD for a regional approach to inventory
- Amendments to Tree Management and Preservation Bylaw No. 1015, 2012
- UFMP recommendations that overlap with FireSmart initiatives
- Making tree removal easier for residents by reducing the fee for a tree permit
- Replacing trees along Lillooet Avenue and Esplanade Avenue
- The East Sector area and maintenance responsibilities of the Village and FVRD
- Placing large yard waste bins out more frequently and having attendants ensure that no one is placing construction waste into them
- Record keeping and documentation of hazard trees, pruning and arborist assessments on public trees
- Staffing levels
- Increasing the tree canopy both on roadways and residential areas
- Collaborating with local nurseries and encouraging residents to plant more fire and climate resistant trees on their properties
- A tree planting plan to give staff direction on what types of trees should be planted
- Grant opportunities to encourage planting trees

Moved by Councillor Schweinbenz

Seconded by Cheri Norris

THAT Council direct staff to investigate grant funding opportunities to support the increase of the urban tree canopy on both public and private properties.

**CARRIED
UNANIMOUSLY**
EAC-2025-03-03

(b) Environmental Open House Update (May 3, 2025)

The Corporate Officer provided a verbal update on behalf of the Community Services Manager. The event is scheduled for May 3, 2025 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The plan is to have the event in the plaza. Memorial Hall is reserved as a backup location.

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The Committee discussed the name of the event, with potential ideas being Earth Day in May or Planet Day in the Plaza. The Committee agreed to think about it and provide any other ideas to staff by email. The Committee asked for an update on whether Sts'ailes has been invited and a list of which organizations have confirmed their attendance. The Committee discussed having a FireSmart table and inviting the Fire Department, potentially with the Structure Protection Unit.

Regarding presentation materials at the Environmental Committee's table, the Committee discussed providing information on statistics such as how many plastic bottles the water-filling station at the plaza saves per year. The Committee also discussed inviting FoodCycler, a tabletop composting company, to attend.

(c) Meeting Dates and Times

The Committee agreed to alternate starting the meetings at 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. The next meetings will be Wednesday, April 2, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. and Monday, April 28, 2025 with the time to be determined.

(d) YouTube Videos

The Committee agreed by consensus that the Environmental Advisory Committee meetings can be uploaded to YouTube.

(e) Funds 2024-2025

The Corporate Officer clarified that the \$5000 budget allocated to the Committee in 2024 did not rollover into this year, however, the Committee may make a request to Council any time through a resolution if a project this year requires funding. Additional information was provided regarding changes to the Council Procedure Bylaw which would see Committees submitting annual work plans in conjunction with the budget process so that any budgetary considerations can be taken into account in the annual financial plan.

(f) Dike Project

The Committee requested that the Dike Project be added to the next meeting's agenda. Committee members were asked to review information relating to the dike upgrade in preparation for the next meeting.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor Schweinbenz
Seconded by Cheri Norris

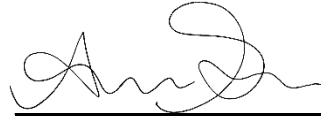
THAT the meeting be adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

**CARRIED
UNANIMOUSLY**
EAC-2025-03-04

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Councillor Mark Schweinbenz, Chair
Environmental Advisory Committee



Amanda Graham
Corporate Officer