



VILLAGE OF HARRISON HOT SPRINGS Environmental Advisory Committee Minutes

DATE: Wednesday, June 4, 2025
TIME: 9:00 a.m.
PLACE: Council Chambers, Village Office
495 Hot Springs Road, Harrison Hot Springs, BC

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillor Mark Schweinbenz (Chair)
Mayor Fred Talen (ex-officio Member, until 10:33 a.m.)
Susan Galvao
Paul Kandt
Cheri Norris
Gary Webster

MEMBERS ABSENT: John DeMartin

STAFF PRESENT: Corporate Officer, Amanda Graham
Director of Operations, Jace Hodgson (until 9:51 a.m.)

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Schweinbenz called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Chair Schweinbenz acknowledged the traditional territory of Sts'ailes.

3. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS

Moved by Gary Webster
Seconded by Paul Kandt

THAT "Bear Smart and Waste Storage" be added to the agenda as Item for Discussion 6(d).

CARRIED
EAC-2025-06-01

Moved by Paul Kandt
Seconded by Susan Galvao

THAT "Dog Waste Bags" be added to the agenda as Item for Discussion 6(e).

CARRIED
EAC-2025-06-02

4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Moved by Chair Schweinbenz
Seconded by Paul Kandt

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

CARRIED
EAC-2025-06-03

5. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by Susan Galvao
Seconded by Gary Webster

THAT the Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of April 25, 2025 be adopted as amended with corrections to the Call to Order and Land Acknowledgement.

CARRIED
EAC-2025-06-04

6. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

(a) Earth Day in May Debrief

Chair Schweinbenz expressed appreciation for everyone's attendance and would like to make Earth Day in May an annual event. The Committee noted that the weather did not cooperate and discussed potentially having a combined indoor/outdoor event at Memorial Hall using the side lawn and covered front area. The Corporate Officer advised that the Committee Annual Work Plan can be added to the next agenda for discussion for the Committee to further develop ideas for next year.

Discussion around the table ensued as follows:

- The networking opportunities and informational displays were great
- People weren't aware that it had moved to the Memorial Hall
- Increasing advertising would be helpful
- Having a schedule of events including presentations
- Advertising specifically to the local schools to increase children's attendance
- Having free food or face painting to increase attendance
- Inviting the Hope Mountain Centre to do a presentation for children
- Reaching out to neighbouring municipalities

(b) Tree Planting Area Walk

Various members of the Committee have gone on several walks throughout the Village and have identified many areas where more trees might be able to be planted. Chair Schweinbenz has prepared a map. The Director of Operations advised that the Village

continues to look for grant opportunities for larger scale plantings, and the map developed by the Committee can be used to support a grant application.

The Committee discussed possible locations for a flowering tree boulevard and expressed a desire to review the Lillooet Avenue West streetscape renderings once available. The Director of Operations will follow-up with the consultant, but it is expected that the rendering will be available this summer. The Committee discussed Spruce Street and Chehalis Street as other possible locations.

Councillor Schweinbenz discussed Halton Hills in Ontario which incentivizes citizens to plant trees by providing a discount on trees at participating nurseries. It would have to be a certain type of tree and would have to be planted a certain distance from buildings. The Committee discussed a potential voucher for the next Earth Day in May event.

The Committee considered the Village's ability to regulate green space on a lot through land use bylaws and requested that the Planning Consultant be invited to speak on this matter. It was noted that the Zoning and Official Community Plan bylaws are going to be updated in the fall for unrelated reasons.

The Director of Operations advised that there is a potential opportunity for the Committee to get involved with planting restoration in the McCombs Bridge area as required by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans this fall. Chair Schweinbenz will reach out to the Miami River Streamkeepers to determine whether there is any interest in a joint tree planting activity. The Committee discussed Peace Park and the potential to plant trees in that area and replace the bench and cover.

(c) FireSmart Landscaping

The Committee discussed cedar hedging close to homes and incentivizing people to replace them with ficus or laurel hedging. The Director of Operations advised that the Village has hired a FireSmart Horticulturist who will be working on FireSmarting different public locations throughout the Village. This is separate from the Local FireSmart Representative position that conducts home assessments. The idea is to have a booth set up while the FireSmart Horticulturist is working in a public space so people can stop by and talk, obtain resources and learn more about FireSmart. When he is in the park we are looking at having a booth set up so people walking by can stop and talk. The Committee requested that the FireSmart Horticulturist be invited to the next meeting to provide more information.

The Committee discussed the importance of cleaning gutters and mobility or financial barriers that may be preventing people from being able to clean their gutters. One potential idea is to involve the Fire Department and a drone to take photos of gutters to determine whether they need to be cleaned. The Committee requested that more messaging about gutter clean up be pushed out by the Village.

Moved by Chair Schweinbenz

THAT staff be directed to re-double the messaging efforts by the Village and Fire Department about cleaning gutters to prepare for fire storm season and include

messaging and a demonstration via drone about the severity of the issue in some properties.

NO SECONDER CALLED FOR

Moved by Mayor Talen
Seconded by Gary Webster

THAT staff be directed to investigate opportunities to enhance messaging about cleaning gutters and FireSmarting perimeters and getting information from the knowledgeable organizations and looking for a local example to demonstrate.

CARRIED
EAC-2025-06-05

(d) Bear Smart and Waste Management

The Committee discussed waste management and bear proof or resistant storage containers to help reduce bear interactions. Some local governments assist residents in purchasing containers that keep bears out. The Committee discussed tagged and/or relocated bears, and obtaining information from BC Conservation Officer Service. It was noted that there are some properties that do not have garages to store waste in, and that bungee cords are not an effective method to keep bears out of garbage cans.

Moved by Mayor Talen
Seconded by Cheri Norris

THAT staff be directed to investigate whether there are any bear proof or resistant garbage containers that the Village can recommend to residents to better secure their garbage.

CARRIED
EAC-2025-06-06

The Corporate Officer advised that being a BearSmart community is a larger scale item that would likely have budgetary considerations associated with it, and Council may need more information on the program. The Committee discussed centralized garbage disposal locations, and attractants such as bird feeders, vegetable gardens and fruit trees.

Moved by Chair Schweinbenz

THAT Council invite a BearSmart Coordinator to attend a Regular Council Meeting as a delegate to provide information on what being a BearSmart Community entails.

NO SECONDER CALLED FOR

(e) Dog Waste Bags

Moved by Chair Schweinbenz
Seconded by Cheri Norris

THAT staff be directed to investigate replacing the dog waste bags in the Village with biodegradable dog waste bags.

CARRIED
EAC-2025-06-07

(f) Next Meeting Date

The next meeting date is scheduled for Wednesday, July 2, 2025 at 3:00 p.m.

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Chair Schweinbenz
Seconded by Susan Galvao

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 10:38 a.m.

CARRIED
EAC-2025-06-08



Councillor Mark Schweinbenz, Chair
Environmental Advisory Committee



Amanda Graham
Corporate Officer