



VILLAGE OF HARRISON HOT SPRINGS Age-Friendly Committee Minutes

DATE: Thursday, June 19, 2025
TIME: 1:30 p.m.
PLACE: Council Chambers, Village Office
495 Hot Springs Road, Harrison Hot Springs, BC

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Fred Talen, Chair
Judith Barron
Alison Douglas
Hannelore Gidora
Audrey Johnstone
Marlene Reimer
Karen Seraphim
Liz Webber

STAFF PRESENT: Corporate Officer, Amanda Graham
Community Services Manager, Christy Ovens
Communications & Community Engagement
Coordinator, Kalie Wiechmann

OTHERS PRESENT: Diane Janzen, Executive Director of Agassiz-Harrison
Community Services
Sabrina Wagstaff, Development Manager at Terra
Social Purpose Real Estate

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Talen called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Mayor Talen acknowledged the traditional territory of Sts'ailes.

3. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS

Mayor Talen requested to add a presentation from Diane Janzen and Sabrina Wagstaff regarding Seniors Housing as the first item for discussion.

4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Moved by Mayor Talen
Seconded by Liz Webber

THAT the agenda be approved with the addition of the late item.

CARRIED
AFC-2025-06-01

5. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by Marlene Reimer
Seconded by Judith Barron

THAT the Age-Friendly Committee Meeting Minutes of May 15, 2025 be adopted.

CARRIED
AFC-2025-06-02

6. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

- (a) Presentation from Diane Janzen and Sabrina Wagstaff regarding Seniors Housing in the Village

Diane and Sabrina presented a PowerPoint regarding a potential opportunity for a partnership with the Village for mixed-income rental housing through the Community Housing Fund, which has an application due date of July 31, 2025. The presenters discussed next steps which include environmental and archaeological assessments, site survey, preliminary design, and a letter of intent to lease the land from the Village. Benefits to the community include keeping families together, allowing seniors to age in place without having to leave the community and having a large housing project funded by a grant.

Mayor Talen advised that Council received the same presentation on Monday evening and directed staff to work with the project team to put together an application before the end of July.

The Committee engaged in a question and answer session as follows:

- Question: Is there any idea as to how many units?
- Answer: Not at this time, but one of the benefits of the process is the opportunity to work with the community to determine the number of units and the nature of the housing in terms of independent, assisted or supportive housing. There are some parameters for BC Housing, for example, they won't accept a project that is too small but it is typically easier to get approval for a project under 40 units.

- Question: Is this cooperative living?
- Answer: No, it is not co-operative housing.

- Question: Is this a continuation of the Village Lands Master Plan?
- Answer: This project is consistent with the Village Lands Master Plan, Council accepted the plan but didn't endorse any one option.

- Question: Will the soil testing be done in time for the application due date?
- Answer: That is the goal, pricing from three different companies is expected to come in on Monday.

Moved by Judith Barron
Seconded by Liz Webber

THAT the Age Friendly Committee provide a letter of support for the potential project.

CARRIED
AFC-2025-06-03

(b) Dishwasher at Memorial Hall

The Committee further discussed the lack of dishwasher at Memorial Hall and whether that impedes its use, with comments regarding FoodSafe and an increase in using the space for hosting Seniors' Lunches. The Community Services Manager advised that the Committee should be cognizant of discussing the individual billing practices of local businesses and that surcharges may be used to offset extremely discounted rates for not-for-profits. The Hall is rented every weekend this summer for birthdays, celebrations of life, and weddings and it does not appear that the lack of a dishwasher is a barrier for anyone paying to use the space. The Committee discussed the length of time required to run a load of dishes, the responsibility that staff would have between rentals to ensure the dishes are cleaned properly, and the plumbing, electrical and hot water tank at the Hall.

(c) Age-Friendly Bingo

The Community Services Manager advised that prizes have now been ordered, including a cooler bag with the Village logo on it which will be filled with more prizes. The bingo cards will be printed and the contest will be launched once all the prizes have arrived.

(d) Speed Watch (Hannelore)

Hannelore spoke to speeding on Hot Springs Road, especially in the school zone, and the Speed Watch program in Chilliwack where volunteers take picture of license plates of those they observe speeding. Alison spoke to the Speed Watch program organized through the Agassiz RCMP and ICBC, and advised that there is already a group of people in the Village responsible for putting up the "Scarecrow". Alison will provide Hannelore with more information.

(e) Community Meeting Space (Marlene)

Marlene discussed the fact that the Village is geared towards the arts, music and tourism, but there is a lack of space for residents to gather especially in the darker, rainier and colder months. In order to participate in any activities or programming, residents have to drive to other neighbouring towns/cities and this can be a barrier for seniors who cannot drive at night. The Committee discussed Memorial Hall and the Community Services Manager advised that recent amendments to the Village's Miscellaneous Fee Bylaw No. 1049 incorporate a resident social activity booking category for \$60/month plus insurance for up to 4 one-hour sessions during the week. The Committee agreed to place this item on the next agenda for future discussion.

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Liz Webber
Seconded by Judith Barron

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 2:46 p.m.

CARRIED
AFC-2025-05-05



Mayor Fred Talen, Chair
Age-Friendly Committee



Amanda Graham
Corporate Officer