



VILLAGE OF HARRISON HOT SPRINGS Environmental Advisory Committee Minutes

DATE: Wednesday, July 2, 2025
TIME: 3:00 p.m.
PLACE: Council Chambers, Village Office
495 Hot Springs Road, Harrison Hot Springs, BC

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillor Mark Schweinbenz (Chair)
Susan Galvao
Paul Kandt
Gary Webster

MEMBERS ABSENT: John DeMartin

STAFF PRESENT: Corporate Officer, Amanda Graham
Community Services Manager, Christy Ovens (until
3:49 p.m.)

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Schweinbenz called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Chair Schweinbenz acknowledged the traditional territory of Sts'ailes.

3. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS

None.

4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Moved by Paul Kandt
Seconded by Susan Galvao

THAT the agenda be approved.

CARRIED
EAC-2025-07-01

5. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by Paul Kandt
Seconded by Gary Webster

THAT the Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of June 16, 2025 be adopted.

CARRIED
EAC-2025-07-02

6. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

(a) Report to Council from Environmental Advisory Committee dated June 16, 2025

The Corporate Officer advised that the Committee's recommendations were unanimously supported and approved by Council.

(b) FireSmart Messaging

The Community Services Manager reported that the Village has been putting out seasonal FireSmart messaging and sharing resources. She was recently certified as a Wildfire Mitigation Specialist and is conducted free home assessments for residents. The Village has been working on the recommendations in the Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan and recently hired a FireSmart Horticultural Technician who has been conducting FireSmart landscaping throughout the Village.

The Committee discussed the future of provincial wildfire resiliency plans and selective logging around Harrison Hot Springs and partnering with local nurseries who sell FireSmart plants.

(c) Bear Resistant Waste Containers

The Community Services Manager indicated that WildSafeBC has a page on their website regarding waste containers that have been tested with the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee. Such bins would be compatible with the current waste collection process in the Village provided they are within the required size limit. The Committee discussed the fact that bird feeders are not necessary after March and instead attract bears.

Moved by Susan Galvao
Secinded by Gary Webster

THAT the WildSafe BC Fraser Valley representative be invited to attend as a delegate at an upcoming regular Council meeting to present on ways that the Village can improve its BearSmart practices.

CARRIED
EAC-2025-07-03

The Committee discussed the amount of municipal garbage cans and replacing them as budget allows with more bear-resistant options. There have been some challenges with large amounts of food waste being dumped in garbage bins near trails/wooded areas.

(d) Biodegradable Dog Waste Bags

The Community Services Manager confirmed that the dog waste bags are biodegradable but are then placed into garbage bags that go to the landfill instead of going to a dog waste composting facility. The Committee commented that the bags are very thick, and although a thinner bag does not necessarily mean it will break down faster, staff can investigate the cost.

(e) Hazardous Waste Collection Day

The Community Services Manager reached out to the Solid Waste Action Team contacts and located an organization called Product Care Recycling. This company transports and disposes of certain types of hazardous waste at no cost. The Committee's preference for a date would be a Saturday in late September or early October. Possible locations include the overflow parking lot or Memorial Hall. Staff will investigate the possibility of having two drop off locations.

(f) Annual Work Plan and Budget

The Committee discussed the following ideas for staff to incorporate into a draft work plan and budget:

- Earth Day in May
- Tree Planting Program
- Free Rolloff Bins for Yard Waste
- Miami River Health – partnerships with Sts'ailes, the Miami River Streamkeepers and the District of Kent
- McCombs Bridge Reforestation

(g) Call Out for Committee Member Applications

The Corporate Officer advised that Cheri Norris resigned and that a call out for Committee member applications is currently active, with applications being accepted until July 8.

(h) Next Meeting Date

The next meeting date is scheduled for Wednesday, September 3, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Susan Galvao
Seconded by Gary Webster

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 4:14 p.m.

CARRIED
EAC-2025-07-04



Councillor Mark Schweinbenz, Chair
Environmental Advisory Committee



Amanda Graham
Corporate Officer