

VILLAGE OF HARRISON HOT SPRINGS Age-Friendly Committee Minutes

DATE: Thursday, January 15, 2026
TIME: 2:00 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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Liz Webber

STAFF PRESENT: Corporate Officer, Amanda Graham
Community Services Manager, Christy Ovens (at 2:21 p.m.)
Communications and Community Engagement Coordinator, Kalie Wiechmann

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Talen called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

2. **LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Mayor Talen acknowledged the traditional territory of Sts'ailes.

3. **INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS**

Hannelore Gidora requested to add "Update on Revitalization of Speed Watch" as item for discussion 6(e).

Audrey Johnstone requested to add "Community Gardens Additional Location" as item for discussion 6(f).

4. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Moved by Audrey Johnstone
Seconded by Karen Seraphim

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

CARRIED
AFC-2026-01-01

5. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by Judith Barron

Seconded by Karen Seraphim

THAT the Age-Friendly Committee Meeting Minutes of December 18, 2025 be adopted.

CARRIED

AFC-2026-01-02

Alison advised that the dietitian in Agassiz does not provide in-person services.

6. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

(a) 2026 Age Friendly Grant

The Corporate Officer advised that Age Friendly grants have opened for 2026. There are two streams, one for \$25,000 to support planning and one for \$15,000 to support projects. Only one can be applied for. Staff reviewed the Age Friendly Action Plan and although it was developed in 2015, the principles haven't changed significantly since that time, and it was felt that the \$15,000 grant for projects would be a better use of funds. The deadline is March 31, 2026 and staff will use the Committee Work Plan and Age Friendly Action Plan to support an application and incorporate age friendly principles into current projects such as the Lillooet Avenue West Streetscape Enhancements and upgrades to the exterior of Memorial Hall.

The Committee discussed the notice board at the Post Office, noting that it is very small. The community notice board across from the Black Forest is out of the way and not well-used.

The Committee emphasized the desire for Chair Yoga to get underway again shortly. The Harrison Mills Community Hall is charging \$5 for yoga. It was noted that mat yoga was also of interest to the community. The Corporate Officer advised that this information will be passed along to the Community Services Manager.

(b) Washroom Hours (Alison)

The Corporate Officer advised that during the winter, the beach washrooms close around 5:00 p.m. and the other washrooms close around 2:30 p.m. In the summer, this timeframe is usually between 8:00 and 9:00 p.m. It was noted that 2:30 p.m. is very early for the washrooms to close. Staff advised that the Village is looking at purchasing automatic door locks, which would automatically lock at a certain time which would help address staffing challenges. It was further noted that the washrooms are occasionally vandalized which can make keeping them open later a challenge.

(c) Memorial Hall Kitchen Sanitizer (Alison)

Alison noted that the Agassiz Harrison Community Services' Seniors Lunch is taking place in Agassiz and the Legion, and when in Harrison will be held at the church. The Committee discussed Memorial Hall and how it is used, and in particular, how the kitchen is used and what for. There are considerations surrounding storage and ownership of the dishware, purchase, maintenance and ongoing costs associated with breakage.

The Committee requested a breakdown on how Memorial Hall and the kitchen there is used, how often meals are catered or brought in and get a sense as to whether the Village is missing out on opportunities for community groups to use the Hall.

The Committee discussed population growth in the Village and Mayor Talen provided information on the Interim Housing Needs Report and the Province's efforts to address challenges with housing stock and affordability.

(d) BC CRN Memorial Hall Access (Alison)

Alison advised that she has applied for BC Community Response Network (CRN) to rent Memorial Hall as a not-for-profit. Staff advised that specific information about the dates, times and proposed activities would be required to move the application along and are also necessary for insurance purposes through BC CRN. A letter of authorization from BC CRN would also be required.

(e) Update on Revitalization of Speed Watch (Hannelore)

Hannelore noted that Speed Watch was previously discussed by the Committee and there have been some communications with the RCMP but nothing came of it. There are a few people in the Village who are trained to do Speed Watch. Alison advised that she will follow up with the RCMP.

The Committee discussed Block Watch and how there are a number of informal Block Watch captains throughout the Village who keep an eye out on their neighbourhoods. The Committee also discussed a lighted crosswalk across Lillooet Avenue by Spring Park, which the Village has been advocating for for several years with the Ministry of Transportation and Transit.

(f) Community Gardens Additional Location (Audrey)

The Corporate Officer advised that the \$3,000 for relocating the fence at the Community Gardens was re-allocated after discussions with the organizers, due to loss of parking, a stump that would need to be removed, and lack of water to the expanded area. The money was re-allocated to install accessible doors at the beach washrooms. The wait list for the Community Gardens has gone down recently, however, it was noted that the gardens are not well-advertised and this number is likely not reflective of how many people would actually like to use it.

The Community Services Manager indicated that the Village submitted a grant for remediation of the current Public Works site which, if successful, could be used to create

a community garden space in that area. The Committee also discussed the need for longterm planning at Spring Park.

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Judith Barron

Seconded by Karen Seraphim

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 3:16 p.m.

CARRIED

AFC-2026-01-03



Mayor Fred Talen, Chair
Age-Friendly Committee



Amanda Graham
Corporate Officer