

**VILLAGE OF HARRISON HOT SPRINGS
Environmental Advisory Committee
Minutes**

DATE: Wednesday, February 11, 2026
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)
John DeMartin
Susan Galvao
Paul Kandt (via Zoom)

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT: Chief Administrative Officer, Tyson Koch
Corporate Officer, Amanda Graham
Community Services Manager, Christy Ovens

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

Susan Galvao requested to add "Communities in Bloom Update" to the agenda as Item for Discussion 6(d).

John DeMartin requested to add "Civic Campus" to the agenda as Item for Discussion 6(e).

John DeMartin requested to add "East Sector Plans" to the agenda as Item for Discussion 6(f).

"Next Meeting Date" was moved to Item for Discussion 6(g).

4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Moved by Paul Kandt
Seconded by Susan Galvao

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

CARRIED
EAC-2026-02-01

5. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by Susan Galvo

Seconded by John DeMartin

THAT the Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of December 3, 2025 be adopted.

CARRIED
EAC-2026-02-02

6. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

(a) Report from December 15, 2025 Regular Council Meeting

The Corporate Officer advised that the recommendation regarding mesh landscaping was supported by Council and has been passed along to our Public Works and Parks staff.

(b) Earth Day in May

The Committee selected Saturday, May 2, 2026 from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at Memorial Hall and requested that tents be set up in order to use the outdoor space. The Committee expressed support for the participants that were previously involved, and requested that the following groups be contacted:

- Kelly Phipps/Friends of the East Sector
- Hope Mountain Centre
- Vendors on an application basis who sell products that meet the goals of environmental protection and sustainability

The Committee discussed providing free coffee and muffins from a local business and having a giveaway gift basket that people can enter to win after visiting all the booths and receiving a stamp card. Staff will research household battery recycling to determine what batteries are acceptable and how to go about getting them to the recycling depot.

(c) 2026 Work Plan/Budget

The Corporate Officer advised that the 2026 work plan and budget was accepted in principle by Council, subject to final adoption of the overall 2026 financial plan. Chair Schweinbenz requested information on tree planting locations, strategies and budget for the next meeting.

(d) Communities in Bloom Update

Susan Galvao advised that Communities in Bloom is doing a seed fundraiser March 1-22, 2026 through West Coast Seeds. Communities in Bloom is also planning regular "Weed and Feed" events and could use support from the Environmental Committee to help with weeding and getting people out to volunteer.

Moved by Paul Kandt
Seconded by Susan Galvao

THAT the Environmental Advisory Committee support and encourage the Communities in Bloom seed sale.

CARRIED
EAC-2026-02-03

(e) Civic Campus

The Committee discussed the proposed “Civic Campus” partnership with the Fraser Cascade School District #78 and the potential loss of green space in Fire Hall Park. It was noted that the project is in the very early planning stage and the goal is to work with the community and residents to address these types of concerns early on. There will be a community engagement event in late April and all members are encouraged to attend. The project is contingent upon funding for the new school. The School District will be looking to construct a sustainable, energy-efficient school. It is possible that there is a net environmental benefit, despite the potential loss of greenspace in Fire Hall Park.

The Committee requested that this topic be placed on the next agenda for further contemplation of a motion regarding maintaining the overall amount of park/green space in the Village.

(f) East Sector Plans

Chair Schweinbenz will reach out to Kelly Phipps about attending the next Committee meeting to present. The Community Services Manager advised that Disc Golf is part of the Resort Development Strategy. There is a large parcel of land that is a Crown grant to the Village for recreational purposes only, but it is part of the Agricultural Land Reserve. The application to allow for a Disc Golf course in that area has not yet been submitted to the Agricultural Land Commission. There are various environmental aspects that need to be taken into consideration, including having a biologist, the proper permits and ensuring that no work takes place during the bird nesting window. The environmental impact of a Disc Golf course varies and can be minimal. The Committee discussed other opportunities to encourage different age groups to enjoy the area, including mountain biking trails and a dirt pump track.

Moved by Susan Galvao
Seconded by John DeMartin

THAT the Environmental Advisory Committee be consulted on any proposals for recreational use of the East Sector prior to adoption by Council.

CARRIED
EAC-2026-02-04

(g) Next Meeting Date:

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 11, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Susan Galvao
Seconded by Paul Kandt

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

CARRIED
EAC-2026-02-05



Councillor Mark Schweinbenz, Chair
Environmental Advisory Committee



Amanda Graham
Corporate Officer