



# NOTICE OF MEETING AND AGENDA ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, June 23, 2026, 3:00 PM  
Village Office, 495 Hot Springs Road,  
Harrison Hot Springs, BC V0M 1K0

**THIS MEETING WILL BE CONDUCTED IN-PERSON AND VIA ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE**

<b>1. CALL TO ORDER</b>
Meeting called to order by Councillor Schweinbenz, Chair.
<b>2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT</b>
Acknowledgement of Sts'ailes traditional territory.
<b>3. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS</b>
<b>4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA</b>
<b>5. ADOPTION OF MINUTES</b>
(a) THAT the Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting minutes of May 26, 2026 be adopted. <span style="float: right;">Page 1</span>
<b>6. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION</b>
(a) Wildlife Society Conference Attendance
(b) Letter to Council dated June 5, 2026 re: Civic Campus <span style="float: right;">Page 7</span>
(c) Cosmetic Pesticide Use Update from June 15, 2026 Council Meeting
(d) Miami River Health
(e) Next Meeting Date: TBD
<b>7. ADJOURNMENT</b>

Amanda Graham  
Corporate Officer





# VILLAGE OF HARRISON HOT SPRINGS Environmental Advisory Committee Minutes

**DATE:** Tuesday, May 26, 2026  
**TIME:** 3:00 p.m.  
**PLACE:** Council Chambers, Village Office  
495 Hot Springs Road, Harrison Hot Springs, BC

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Councillor Mark Schweinbenz (Chair)  
John DeMartin (at 3:07 p.m.)  
Susan Galvao  
Paul Kandt

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**  
**STAFF PRESENT:** Chief Administrative Officer, Tyson Koch  
Corporate Officer, Amanda Graham

**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**

Paul Kandt requested that "Community Forests" be added as Item for Discussion 6(i).

**4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**Moved by Susan Galvao**  
**Seconded by Paul Kandt**

THAT the agenda be approved as amended.

**CARRIED**  
EAC-2026-05-01

**5. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

**Moved by Paul Kandt**  
**Seconded by Susan Galvao**

THAT the Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of April 28, 2026 be adopted.

**CARRIED**  
EAC-2026-05-02

## 6. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

### (a) Presentation from Kelly Phipps

John DeMartin entered Council Chambers at 3:07 p.m.

Kelly Phipps presented on an Urban Bear Monitoring Program and the impact of development in the area. Current challenges include community garbage bins that are not bear proof, attractants being left out, and limited education and enforcement. Urban Bear Monitoring uses trained detection dogs to locate and analyze bear scat to determine food sources, diet, patterns of movement and habitat use. The idea of this project is to complement other work and education outreach that is already being done and provide data to support future grant applications. Deliverables include an estimation of the number of bears using the area, identification of repeat bears, diet analysis and maps of activity.

The Wildlife Society is having their annual conference in Harrison Hot Springs this September and Kelly will be presenting to them on the human wildlife conflict issues in the Village and taking them for a walk in the East Sector. This project might present an opportunity to connect with Sts'ailes and/or a PhD student.

The Committee inquired as to what sort of involvement the Village would have. Kelly advised that ideally the Village would support the project, seek funding and partner in this project and that the data would belong to the Village. An estimated cost is approximately \$35,000. The lab analysis portion could potentially be costly. It was noted that it may be beneficial for one or two Committee members to attend the Wildlife Society Conference to network and bring more information back to Council. Chair Schweinbenz requested that staff research Committee member attendance at the conference.

### (b) Report of Corporate Officer dated May 26, 2026 Re: Earth Day in May Report

The Committee discussed the event, noting the following:

- It was busier than the year before and the weather was better
- There should be a way to address the issue of people not showing up to workshops, especially when there is a waiting list
- There was an interest in doing it again next year to build on the momentum of the past two years
- The vendors appeared to be happy with how it went
- Having someone walk up and down the area to draw people was helpful
- Next year, the Committee will have use of the grassy area outside Memorial Hall which will draw more people in as well
- The first hour was not very busy and it may be more beneficial to run the event longer as people arrived at noon and were surprised to see it wrapping up

- There weren't many children at the event and perhaps having the event on a Friday might present an opportunity for a field trip

(c) Feedback from Civic Campus Engagement Event

The Committee discussed the Civic Campus Engagement Event which was held on May 20, 2026 at the school and at which all the Committee members were in attendance. Feedback was provided, with the Committee indicating that there was a lot of public engagement regarding the environmental impact, many conversations, a good turnout and helpful discussions with the School District. It was recognized that there may be an opportunity to shift the location of the new school slightly to mitigate concerns regarding loss of trees in the area. It was noted that many residents spoke about how the trees are important to community, and represent an ecosystem and a place for students to learn and play.

**Moved by Susan Galvao**  
**Seconded by Paul Kandt**

THAT staff be directed to draft a letter to Council and School District 78 outlining the Committee's opinion regarding the Fire Hall Park's environmental, educational and community values and requesting that these be taken into consideration as the project evolves.

**CARRIED**  
EAC-2026-05-03

(d) Miami River Health

Paul advised that he had found a report regarding the Miami River with data that has laid the groundwork for work that the Miami River Streamkeepers have been doing since 1989. The Committee discussed the merits of Council requesting a meeting with the Minister of Environment at UBCM, and the amount of work that was done prior to Covid-19 in 2020 that has lost momentum.

Discussion ensued regarding a more regional approach given that the headwaters of the Miami River are located within the District of Kent. Chair Schweinbenz advised that he would contact the District of Kent to determine whether they will be meeting with the Minister of Environment and requested that Paul research information into studies that have been done on the Miami River.

(e) Public Area Tree Planting

Chair Schweinbenz noted that he has a map of areas that had been previously identified by the Committee as public spaces where more trees could be planted. It was noted that consideration needed to be given to the types of trees that should go in certain locations to ensure that they will survive. The Committee discussed the cedar hedges near the bus stop on Hot Springs Road at Miami River Drive and going on another walk to continue to identify areas.

(f) Wildlife Protection Research

Council recently directed staff to research a Wildlife Attractant Management bylaw which will be forthcoming to a future Council meeting.

(g) Adopt a Shoreline/Trail

The Committee discussed the issue of the waste containers along the beachfront becoming overfull, especially on Sunday evenings. This results in garbage piled up near the containers which is then accessed by wildlife and blown around the beachfront area, sometimes over the berm and into the lake. Staff advised that the seasonal Public Works positions are now filled and there are staff working later into the evenings throughout the summer to address waste containers. Staff will pass this along to Public Works to look into adding another waste container near the beach washrooms and the large chair on the west side of the lagoon.

(h) Cosmetic Herbicide Use

John reported that he recently saw a glyphosate sign outside of one of the condo buildings and researched cosmetic pesticide bylaws in other municipalities like Langley and North Vancouver. There are some herbicides that are very invasive especially near waterways and other local governments have a permitting process in place to apply for an exemption to the cosmetic use prohibitions. Discussion ensued on invasive species such as Japanese Knotweed which requires aggressive herbicide treatment.

**Moved by John DeMartin**  
**Seconded by Paul Kandt**

THAT Council direct staff to research a bylaw prohibiting certain herbicides for cosmetic purposes.

**CARRIED**  
EAC-2026-05-04

(i) Community Forest

Paul commended Chair Schweinbenz for his recent Council motion regarding a community forest and the Committee discussed the impact of nearby forestry operations on the Village. Council will be discussing forestry at a future Committee of the Whole meeting.

**Moved by Paul Kandt**  
**Seconded by John DeMartin**

THAT the Committee indicate its support for Council's efforts towards the forestry discussion.

**CARRIED**  
EAC-2026-05-05

(j) Next Meeting Date: June 23, 2026, 3:00 p.m.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

**Moved by Susan Galvao**

**Seconded by Paul Kandt**

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 4:42 p.m.

**CARRIED**  
EAC-2026-05-06

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Councillor Mark Schweinbenz, Chair  
Environmental Advisory Committee

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Amanda Graham  
Corporate Officer

DRAFT



Date: June 5, 2026

File No: 0360-20-07

Mayor and Council  
Village of Harrison Hot Springs  
PO Box 160, 495 Hot Springs Road  
Harrison Hot Springs, BC V0M 1K0

Board Chair and Trustees  
School District No.78 (Fraser-Cascade)  
650 Kawkawa Lake Road  
Hope, BC V0X 1L0

Dear Mayor and Council, and Board Chair and Trustees:

**RE: Civic Campus Project**

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On behalf of the Environmental Advisory Committee, I'd like to extend our thanks to Council and School District No. 78 (Fraser-Cascade) for involving the Committee in the May 20, 2026 Civic Campus Engagement Event. We appreciated the opportunity to learn more about the proposal and to engage with the public. There were many productive conversations, and we were pleased by the amount of feedback received, especially as it pertains to the environmental considerations which are at the core of our mandate as an advisory committee to Council.

During the most recent Committee meeting of May 26, 2026 we discussed the feedback received during the event. We resolved to write to Council and School District No.78 (Fraser-Cascade) to bring forward several items and request that they be taken into consideration as the project evolves.

Fire Hall Park holds significant environmental, community and educational value to the residents of Harrison Hot Springs and students of Harrison Hot Springs Elementary. From an environmental stewardship perspective, this area is home to many large trees which serve to mitigate climate concerns and greenhouse gas emissions, provide wildlife habitat and support biodiversity. The area supports education by offering a place for children to play, explore and learn about the natural world that surrounds them. During the public engagement event, we heard many comments regarding the community significance of these mature trees. They represent a vital piece of our community identity as part of the natural character of Harrison Hot Springs.

The community clearly places significant importance on preserving and managing trees in this area. While we can appreciate that this proposal has great potential to enhance educational and civic spaces in the Village, we wanted to bring these concerns to your attention. We urge you to consider these comments with respect to any future planning or development of this area.

Thank you again for your consideration and continued commitment to involving the community in these important discussions.

Sincerely,



Councillor Schweinbenz  
Chair, Village of Harrison Hot Springs Environmental Advisory Committee