

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FOREST HEALTH COMMITTEE OF THE TOWN OF PINETOP-LAKESIDE, ARIZONA HELD MONDAY, JANUARY 4, 2010 AT 8:30 A.M. IN THE EXECUTIVE MEETING ROOM.

PRESENT:

Herb Fortier, Town of Pinetop-Lakeside Code Enforcement Officer; Kirk Webb, Lakeside Fire Department Fire Marshal; Paul Esparza, Town of Pinetop-Lakeside Community Development Director; Lloyd Wilmes, University of Arizona Cooperative Extension; Steve Campbell, University of Arizona Cooperative Extension; Jan Mathis, University of Arizona Cooperative Extension; Kelly Wood, Pinetop Fire Department Inspector; Tim Van Scoter, Cody Blake, Town of Pinetop-Lakeside Planning Technician and Kelly Udall, .

REVIEW OF THE MINUTES:

There were no corrections to the minutes.

COMMITTEE UPDATES:

Herb Fortier said they need to reselect a date to begin work at the demonstration site. He said once a date is chosen, the Public Works Department will remove the fencing along the site. He said Gary Renfro, from the Blue Ridge School District, would mark where the fencing would be located. He indicated Tom Lopez is just waiting for a confirmation and he would have to coordinate with several organizations. The Committee discussed the details in regard to arranging the thinning of the demonstration site. Paul Esparza said he would notify the Town Manager and the Town Council once a date is selected. Steve Campbell said the trees could be cut down in one day and then removed from the site. Mr. Fortier said Tom Thomas, the Public Works Director, would have his crew remove the trees. They considered how far the fence would be moved. Mr. Fortier said he would verify the distance and follow up with the Committee. The Committee considered when to begin thinning and decided on the week of January 25. Lloyd Wilmes suggested they select an alternate date in case something comes up and they would not have to wait another month to reschedule. Mr. Esparza indicated he would have Mr. Fortier notify the Committee of the dates and coordinate with everyone. Mr. Campbell suggested an e-mail be sent to the Committee notifying them of the confirmed date.

Mr. Esparza asked if there is any status regarding the Wildland Urban Interface Grant. Mr. Wilmes said he left a message for Denise Pawlak, from the State Division of Forestry, but said he has not received a return phone call. Ken Butler said the State has designated funds for grants, and suggested the funds may have been redistributed.

Mr. Fortier said he and Jan Mathis visited the Sierra Pine Loop area and assessed 65 properties. He said he mailed property owners and has already received some responses. He said he asked them to submit a mitigation plan no later than February and said he may have to go back out to check properties. Mr. Campbell asked if any technical expertise would be available to property owners so they could prepare a mitigation plan. Mr. Fortier said he, or one of the community foresters would be able to assist the homeowner with that process. He said some homeowners

have already contacted him in regard to getting an extension. Mr. Esparza asked if neighborhood meetings would benefit the community. Mr. Fortier said it may not be necessary in organized communities but it would be helpful in neighborhoods not having homeowner associations. Mr. Campbell said he, Mr. Wilmes and Mr. Butler met with the Arizona Department of Transportation regarding the 200-foot easement on Latigo Way. He said they would like to create a volunteer group to clean the area near the detention ponds and bring it into compliance. The Committee discussed the area near White Mountain Summer Homes and possibly thinning in that area. Tim Van Scoter asked if state crews could help with those kinds of projects. Kelly Wood asked Mr. Van Scoter what crews he was talking about. Mr. Van Scoter indicated the prison crews. Mr. Campbell stated it would be better if they could get volunteers.

REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION OF POSSIBLE TEXT AMENDMENTS TO CHAPTER 17.96, FOREST HEALTH AND FIRE PROTECTION:

The Committee reviewed the suggested text amendments for each of the Sections beginning with Chapter 17.96. Mr. Wilmes noted “survivable” is misspelled. The Committee discussed why they changed the term to, “defensible space.” Ms. Mathis said she has been using that term more, because people understand it better. Mr. Campbell noted “densiometer” is misspelled in Section 17.96.030(2). Mr. Esparza asked if the timeline is acceptable to the committee. The Committee concurred with the timeline. Kelly Udall asked how they define adequate hydration. Mr. Wilmes noted it is just a recommended action. Ms. Mathis said it is surprising how many people believe they do not have to supplemental watering. Mr. Wood asked why there are two “Xs” on number 4 under Zone 2. The Committee said the “X” in the “Time for Compliance” column should be deleted. They debated the meaning of the first paragraph under Section 17.96.080 but decided to keep the suggested changes. Ms. Mathis asked to revisit number four of Zone 2 on the chart and said she thinks it could be misinterpreted. The Committee considered changes. Kirk Webb suggested it read, “...tree crowns, grouping of trees, and other plants.” The Committee agreed.

Mr. Wilmes asked if the Commission should be identified as the Forest Health Committee. Mr. Esparza said the Commission is considered as the Tree Board. He said he would look at that to see who would be identified as the Committee. Mr. Fortier if they would replace civil penalties with criminal penalties. Mr. Esparza said the Town Attorney would review that issue.

They reviewed Chapter 17.92. Mr. Esparza noted the scientific names should be italicized. Mr. Wilmes suggested the title of Table 3 should read, “Spacing shall meet standards...” Mr. Esparza asked Ms. Mathis if she could work with Cody Blake, the Planning Technician to verify the names of the trees and shrubs. The Committee did not have any additional changes to Chapter 16.20 and decided to meet on January 25.

Dated this 5th day of January 2010.

PINETOP-LAKESIDE FOREST HEALTH COMMITTEE

/s/ Susan Stein for Lisa Figueroa, Community Development Secretary