

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FOREST HEALTH COMMITTEE OF THE TOWN OF PINETOP-LAKESIDE, ARIZONA HELD MONDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2009 AT 9:00 A.M. IN THE EXECUTIVE MEETING ROOM.

PRESENT:

Herb Fortier, Town of Pinetop-Lakeside Code Enforcement Officer; Brian McCabe, Town of Pinetop-Lakeside Town Planner; Kirk Webb, Lakeside Fire Department Fire Marshal; Tim Van Scoter, Lakeside Fire Chief; Stuart Bishop, Pinetop Fire Department Assistant Chief; Paul Esparza, Town of Pinetop-Lakeside Community Development Director; Lloyd Wilmes, University of Arizona Cooperative Extension; Norris Dodd, Town of Pinetop-Lakeside Town Council member; Steve Campbell, University of Arizona Cooperative Extension; Jan Mathis, University of Arizona Cooperative Extension; and Ken Butler, Arizona State Forestry Division.

COMMITTEE UPDATES:

Paul Esparza informed the Committee he spoke with the Town Attorney, who mentioned they must act as a Town Committee. He said there will be agendas and minutes, but indicated there would not be any action taken. Ken Butler said he read the minutes and they were complete.

Herb Fortier said he met with Tom Lopez and Chris Jessup, from the Show Low Fire Department, who suggested where to take the fence down at the school. He said they are currently trying to determine and coordinate a date between the Town and Show Low Fire in order to begin work at the demonstration site. He said the fence along the street would remain in tact. He said they spoke to John Vuolo, the Parks and Recreation Director, who stated he would like the wood chips dumped at Mountain Meadow. He said the Maintenance Supervisor at the school indicated they could relocate the electric lines. He said Mr. Jessup asked the Town to make an in-kind donation for supplies, and said he contacted Cutter's Supply for an estimate. Mr. Esparza said the total was estimated to be around \$3,700, which included saws, chains, and oil. Steve Campbell suggested staff track their time towards the project because it can included as an in-kind contribution. Mr. Campbell suggested they clear cut the area near the fields so they don't have to worry about it later. Norris Dodd agreed with Mr. Campbell. Mr. Campbell suggested they coordinate with the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) because some trees could fall into the street. Mr. Butler said he has had to get a permit from ADOT in the past. The Committee discussed video recording the progress on the demonstration site and showing it on the local public access channel. Mr. Butler asked if the Committee could be notified once a date is determined. Mr. Fortier said he would notify the Committee.

Mr. Esparza asked the Foresters about the status of the Wildland Urban Interface grant that was supposed to be transferred to the Town. Lloyd Wilmes said the contract was signed over for the transfer on October 21. He said it still needs to go through the Forester's office and the Controller's office. Mr. Campbell said the grant would expire on September 30, 2010. Mr. Esparza asked if the scope of the grant would extend throughout the Town or if must remain within the Lakeside Fire District boundaries. Mr. Wilmes said the transfer did not include that request, and suggested they wait for the transfer to close before they make that request. Mr. Fortier asked how much reimbursement an owner could apply for. Jan Mathis said it is \$500 an acre. Mr. Esparza asked what the current cost is to thin a property. Ms. Mathis said there are some cutters who charge upwards of \$3,000. She suggested property owners get three bids for

their own protection. Mr. Esparza said there was discussion to include public education in the grant. Ms. Mathis said education is always included in the grant. She suggested Kent Brooksby, the Finance Director, create a separate account so the additional monies from the grant could be set aside and used for educational purposes. She said then the money doesn't get lost in the General Funds. Mr. Campbell said that money could then be rolled over into another year. He said one municipality lost \$77,000 because they didn't separate the funds.

Mr. Esparza said Kirk Webb, Herb Fortier, Brian McCabe, and Jan Mathis met to identify priority areas within Pinetop-Lakeside. The Committee reviewed the map Mr. McCabe created. Mr. Webb said The Woods Subdivision was identified as priority one. He said they are going to apply for a RAC grant to use in the Porter Mountain area. The Committee discussed target areas and considered requiring a 50 to 60-foot clearance from buildings. Mr. Fortier said they are also concerned with adjacent county islands and stated they debated on asking Navajo County for enforcement rights. He said it would allow the Town to assist the Lakeside Fire District in enforcing clean up in those areas. Mr. Wilmes suggested they use letters instead of numbers to identify high priority areas. He asked if it would be difficult to switch it to the Town and Pinetop Fire District then it could include other islands within Navajo County. The Committee considered using names for districts instead of letters and numbers. Mr. Esparza suggested they invite Greg Loper, the Navajo County Planning & Zoning Director for his comments. The Committee discussed distributing letters to homeowners within the Pinetop Fire District or staying within the Town boundaries. Mr. Webb suggested they send letters to a few homeowners within each area. He said there would be a greater impact when they see their neighbors involved in the clean up and will want to do the same.

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

Mr. Esparza asked if they should adjust the timeline. Mr. Wilmes said it depends on what actions they take. Councilman Dodd said they considered omitting two acres and creating a fourth zone, which would include any size acreage. The Committee reviewed the Code. Mr. Wilmes suggested they include 33% canopy standard, which is a trigger point. He said it is easier for the public to understand. Mr. Webb asked if they could change the language of the basal area to something the public can comprehend. Mr. Campbell said the key is to have a professional available to explain it to the public. Ms. Mathis recommended they replace the language of basal area with the standard for crown coverage. Most of the Committee agreed with the suggestion. Mr. Fortier said the public may be more inclined to participate if the Town simplifies the process. The Committee debated on whether the basal area specified in the Code is enforceable. Stuart Bishop said he is not sure they should remove those stipulations. Mr. Esparza said staff would make the recommended changes and bring them back for review.

Dated this 18<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2009.

PINETOP-LAKESIDE FOREST HEALTH COMMITTEE

/s/ Lisa Figueroa, Community Development Secretary