

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FOREST HEALTH COMMITTEE OF THE TOWN OF PINETOP-LAKESIDE, ARIZONA HELD MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 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 Councilor; and Ken Butler, Arizona State Forestry Division.

STAFF ACTION SINCE LAST FOREST HEALTH COMMITTEE MEETING:

Paul Esparza opened the meeting by reviewing the five action items the Committee identified at the last meeting. 1. Public Education; 2. Town Council reaffirmation; 3. Town risk assessment; 4. Create a clearinghouse; 5. Grant investigation

Mr. Esparza said he spoke with Jan Mathis, who indicated there may be monies left over in the Lakeside Fire District grant which could be transferred to the Town. Lloyd Wilmes said the grant should be completed by October 1. Tim Van Scoter said there is one more cycle of reimbursements to be issued. He indicated there is another grant that may be transferred if an official notice were sent to the state requesting the transfer. Mr. Esparza asked if it would be extended through the fire district or Town wide. Mr. Wilmes said the request could pose that question and suggested including both fire districts. Norris Dodd suggested sending a map of the Blue Ridge School District boundaries. Mr. Esparza said Ms. Mathis indicated there is a grant available for public education and asked if that money could be used to produce a brochure or other materials to distribute Town wide. Mr. Van Scoter said there may be some administration monies they could use. Kirk Webb said he is going to re-apply for the FEMA grant and said he could include it in the request.

Mr. Van Scoter said he spoke to Tom Lopez, who is doing thinning work in Show Low, who suggested they move up this way. He said Mr. Lopez was interested in working in Pinetop-Lakeside. The Committee discussed options of a demonstration site, deciding on the parcel at the corner of Highway 260 across from Larson Library. They considered options in an effort to determine how they could assist homeowners with funding and the Western Bark Beetle Initiative Grant was mentioned, as it provides funding assistance to low income homeowners. The Committee discussed the details of the grant and decided to ask Mr. Lopez for assistance with the demonstration site. Mr. Van Scoter said Mr. Lopez indicated he would be glad to do it if he is available. Herb Fortier said there is a batting cage and some power boxes that may need to be relocated before they begin the thinning in that area. Mr. Esparza asked Mr. Fortier to talk to the school to see if they could move those things.

The Committee then discussed who would administer the grant and Mr. Van Scoter suggested the reimbursements should be available in the Town and in Navajo County. Ken Butler said most people have to wait several months to get their money back, and it is a problem for them. Norris Dodd asked who would verify the work has been satisfactory completed. Mr. Esparza suggested Ms. Mathis could verify the work is completed. Mr. Wilmes said there is the potential that some costs may not be covered

because they do not lie within the scope of the grant. He suggested they meet with HOAs to inform them of available options. He also mentioned creating a postcard to distribute to residents. The Committee discussed identifying target areas. Mr. Wilmes said he and Meckenzie Helmendollar would be able to assist in identifying those areas. Mr. Dodd said it would be good to use as many local staff as possible to show a united front. The Committee considered various avenues to send out information, which included the school, Navopache Electric, and other mailers. Mr. Webb said after the Rodeo-Chediski Fire they held education classes for various HOAs, and said they could do that again.

Mr. Webb stated they could film a video regarding forest health using the demonstration site. Stuart Bishop suggested using channel four to show the video. Mr. Esparza said neighborhood meetings could be held. Mr. Esparza said Ms. Mathis noted a grant that has about \$65,000 of funds available and asked if that could be used within the Town. Mr. Wilmes said there after the latest reimbursements there may be about \$35,000 left. The Committee discussed a possible timeline and Mr. Esparza indicated he would like get the demonstration site done before winter. Mr. Dodd said the City of Flagstaff received a grant to create display panels to educate the public and suggested it may be an option the Town would like to pursue. The Committee debated about the removal of the fence at the suggested demonstration site. Mr. Esparza said the fence would have to be removed from the Town. Mr. Wilmes said a fence should be no higher than three or four feet to keep the kids from running into the street. Mr. Bishop suggested using the thinned materials to create the fence. They may have to go out into the field and then hold a neighborhood meeting.

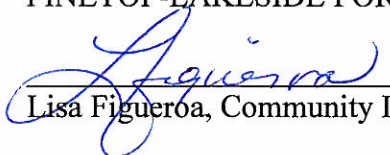
The Committee discussed enforcing the Town Code and issuing citations. Mr. Fortier said he is working with the Town Attorney to establish penalties and indicated most of the cases that have had citations issued, have cleared up their properties without any further action. He said one property failed to comply and they are being taken to court. He said and now it's a matter of how to compel the property owner to comply. They discussed the difficulties in pursuing the abatement and deliberated the Town's position in not being able to pursue that avenue. Mr. Esparza asked if they should follow the timeline outlined in the Code. Mr. Butler suggested they wait for input from the Town Attorney. Mr. Dodd said there was discussion about using red stake/green stake markers and asked if assessments have been completed where they leave a notice on the door stating their property is not in compliance. Mr. Bishop said Pinetop Fire Department has started that process, but many neighborhoods here are comprised of second homeowners who don't live here year round.

The Committee discussed how homeowners could do some of the cleaning themselves. Mr. Dodd said homeowners, who believe fire protection is removing all the trees from their property, have approached him. Mr. Fortier asked if homeowners could clean their property and put the stuff out at the curb. The Committee liked the idea but indicated there is no Town service to pick up the trash. Mr. Fortier said the Town Code stipulates waste companies leave two dumpsters in the Town to use twice a year. Lisa Figueroa said Global Youth Service Day is held annually in April and noted there are grants available for nonprofits to engage youth in community service projects. She suggested they approach an organization such as Big Brothers, Big Sisters or the Yellow Jacket Youth Center to apply for a grant to coordinate a Cleaning Day in the Spring. She said it could be a Town wide community pride day and said the monies could go to purchasing gloves, shirts, and other materials. She said people would come in that morning to collect the tools and there would be team leaders to lead groups to different locations throughout the Town to clean up debris and trash from yards of those needing assistance. The trash is then left on the curbs to be collected by the Town or other willing entities. Then afterwards there could be a barbeque at Mountain Meadow or Woodland Lake Park for those who participated. She said the

Committee discussed finding a way to get the youth involved, and indicated this would be an opportunity for the whole community to be involved. Mr. Van Scoter said the huge dumpsters could be used that day to collect the trash. Mr. Bishop said the three zones are not applicable to most of the lots in Town and suggested a comparison be made with other municipalities. The Committee decided to meet again on October 26 to consider changes to Chapter 17.96.

Dated this 12th day of October 2009.

PINETOP-LAKESIDE FOREST HEALTH COMMITTEE



Lisa Figueroa, Community Development Secretary