

Town of Green Mountain Falls
Fire Mitigation Advisory Committee meeting minutes
Monday, Feb. 27, 2023 at 6:30 pm Mountain time
All members participated on Zoom

Committee Members Present

Chair David Douglas
Vice Chair Paul Yingling
Member John Bell
Member Kelly Hunter

Trustees Members

Mayor Todd Dixon
Nick Donzello

Recording Secretary

Carolyn Bowers

Town Staff Present

None

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Chair Douglas called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm

2. ADDITIONS, DELETIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA

Yingling moved to accept the agenda as posted. Hunter seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Bowers asked for clarification on Dan Battin's leaving the committee. Chair Douglas said Battin sent an email to him stating he was resigning.

Mayor Dixon reported a bill proposed in the state legislature to create a 21-member panel that would dictate wildland-urban interface codes. Ten members would be appointed. The Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments (PPACG) opposes the bill as drafted. Dixon co-chairs PPACG's legislative committee.

Hunter said Mark Moralez was also attending on Zoom. She has suggested he apply to fill the vacancy left by Battin.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Douglas moved and Yingling seconded a motion to adopt the minutes from the Jan. 12, 2023 meeting. Motion passed 4-0.

5. OLD BUSINESS

a. Waiver of liability letter concerning rights-of-way (ROW) mitigation

Yingling reported that CUSP has begun marking trees to establish boundaries for mitigating ROWs adjacent to private property. Trees are marked for boundaries, not for cutting. Douglas said under the terms of the agreement, once boundaries are marked,

owners will have 30 days to comment on them. The committee discussed how owners of multiple, undeveloped properties that may not have addresses are to be identified on the liability release form. Yingling estimated there are about 25 properties lacking numbers. He suggested owners could identify them by their parcel or lot numbers, which are already entered on a spreadsheet of ROWs he created. Douglas, Hunter and Bell agreed. No vote was necessary.

Douglas moved the committee approved the liability release agreement for distribution to property owners. Hunter seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

b. Plan for Distributing Release of Liability to owners

The primary mode of distribution is mailing to property owners. A door-to-door campaign and social media and email are supplementary. Yingling said 191 packets that include the release and a map are needed. Yingling, Hunter and Bell said they are available to help collate documents and stuff envelopes.

Yingling said responses from the mailing will reduce the number of “door knocks” needed to inform owners about the release. Owners can also submit releases by email.

Douglas moved that the map showing numbered ROWs marked in red accompany the release. Bell seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

The committee discussed the need for a cover letter to go with the release and map to explain why owners are receiving the release. It should be signed by Town Manager Frank and possibly Mayor Dixon. Bowers will draft a letter and send a copy, by individual email, to each committee member. Members will send their comments only to Douglas who will incorporate them in a final draft to go to Frank, hopefully by Friday, March 3. Douglas will advise Frank of these plans.

The committee may develop Frequently Asked Questions about the release for posting on the town’s website. The content can change, depending on what questions are asked.

c. Education Plan

Bell said it would be beneficial for committee members to learn about the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA) Incident Command System; how it is created and executed. Understanding it could enable them to participate in emergencies in a meaningful way. Bell will send modules of FEMA’s internal education program to committee members.

Bell reported he is waiting for confirmation for Chipper Days weekend in September, the Green Box hikes to educate people on how forests are mitigated and how to recognize tree diseases will be July 1 and July 2, Bronc Day is last weekend in July.

Hunter has received no word from the Manitou system’s security team about a leadership meeting. This could be because the system’s superintendent just resigned.

Douglas moved and Hunter seconded a motion to approve the March Tip of the Month. Motion was approved 4-0. The Tip focuses on planning for evacuating from the home.

d. Assessment Plan update No report.

5. NEW BUSINESS

a. Douglas opened the discussion on forming subcommittees and their purpose.

Assessment: Subcommittee members trained to assess risks around homes and help owners make their homes safer from fire. Douglas said Battin has agreed to help out as a “resource consultant” to help train subcommittee members to do assessments.

Other subcommittees should reflect the committee’s priorities: education, grants and resources. There’s also need for a volunteer coordinator.

Block captains should be a subcommittee, Douglas said. The committee will discuss their roles and responsibilities at the March meeting.

Action items: Bowers drafting liability release cover letter for Frank’s signature. Douglas will apprise Frank of it. Bell will continue actions on education. Hunter will continue followup on school leadership conference, plus put Mark Moralez in touch with Douglas.

6. ADJOURNMENT Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.