



Town of Green Mountain Falls

Regular Fire Mitigation Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda

October 30, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

Join the Zoom Meeting by clicking on the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81027835762?pwd=Y1pXV2pJZk1IWGRYOTlnYIR1ckVQUT09>

Meeting ID: 810 2783 5762

Passcode: 833996

To make a **public comment** please **pre-register** by 4pm on the day of the meeting via email:

david@falconpartnersltd.com

REGULAR MEETING:

TIME*		ITEM	DESIRED OUTCOME
6:00	1.	CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL	
6:00	2.	ADDITIONS, DELETIONS, OR CORRECTION TO THE AGENDA	FMC Action Desired
6:05	3.	PERSONS PRESENT NOT ON THE AGENDA: 3 MINUTES PER SPEAKER	Information Only
6:10	4.	CONSENT AGENDA a. Minutes from September 18 Meeting	FMC Action Desired
6:15	5.	OLD BUSINESS a. CUSP SFA and FRWRM Grant Projects – Update, David Douglas b. Guidelines for determining the responsible party for tree removal. c. Recommendation to BoT for demand letter to CSU to cut dead trees by power lines – discussion for withdrawal of action. d. Education Program Update e. Monthly tip – Paul Yingling f. GMF resident and property owner data base update (information only) g. Formation of Volunteer Groups i. Block Captains ii. Volunteer Data Base and Tracking	FMC Action Desired
7:00	6.	NEW BUSINESS a. Ordinance No. 2023-24. Review memo and complete same.	FMC Action Desired
7:30	7.	REPORTS a. None	Information Only
7:30	8.	CORRESPONDENCE	Information Only
7:30	9.	ADJOURN	Information Only

*Please note: Times are approximate.

**The Town shall provide reasonable accommodation for those with disabilities on a case by case basis. Please send accommodation requests to clerk@gmfco.us by 4pm on the date of the meeting.

**Town of Green Mountain Falls
Fire Mitigation Advisory Committee meeting minutes
Monday, Sept. 18, 2023**

Committee Members Present

Chair David Douglas
Vice Chair Paul Yingling
Member Kelly Hunter (on Zoom)
Member Lisa Huizenga

Trustee Members

Nick Donzella (on Zoom)

Town Staff

Bo Ayad

Recording Secretary

Carolyn Bowers (on Zoom)

1. ROLL CALL AND CALL TO ORDER Chair David Douglas called the meeting to order at 6 pm

2. CHANGES, ADDITIONS, DELETIONS TO AGENDA Douglas moved and Yingling seconded a motion to accept revised Aug. 28, 2023 minutes for review. Motion unanimously approved.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS None

4. CONSENT AGENDA Douglas moved to adopt the revised Aug. 28, 2023 minutes. Yingling seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

5. OLD BUSINESS

a. Kirkpatrick Family Foundation (KFF), Forest Restoration Wildfire Risk Mitigation Grant Program (FRWRM) and Colorado Forestry Assn. (CFA) grants -- Douglas reported the Kirkpatrick Family Foundation is reviewing a grant application asking it to pick up 60 per cent of what Green Mountain Falls must pay to receive CUSP funds to finish mitigation projects in and around Green Mountain Falls. GMF would be obligated to pay \$105,000. If KFF helps out, using a 60-40 cost share, KFF's would pay \$65,000 to CUSP and GMF \$40,000.

Douglas noted that if the town approves only partial funds or none, the grants would be adjusted to reflect reduced amounts or go away altogether.

b. CUSP Rights of Way – Douglas said Coalition for the Upper South Platte (CUSP) has completed five acres of ROWs. There are nine acres left. CFS and FRWRM grants will cover these. CUSP must still determine what acreage on these ROWs is workable. If there is money left over, it can go to work on other mitigation.

c. Budget discussion – Douglas noted that the Board of Trustees has agreed that wildfire mitigation is its top priority. This is why the committee believes trustees must approve spending \$40,000 to cover its share of the \$105,000 required by the CUSP matching grant. The KFF would pay \$60,000.

Hunter proposed asking for \$1,000 to begin a “lending closet” for fire mitigation tools. Douglas said the proposal needs to be further developed to address questions like location, checking out tools, replacement, repair.

Hunter also suggests including money for education such as future movie nights.

Yingling suggested budgeting \$2,000 to take care of expenses related to nuisance tree enforcement, such as hiring professionals to certify that a tree must come down. Hunter asked if there was a plan to help property owners who can't afford the cost. Yingling proposed asking for money to begin a pilot program to help owners (example, providing a sawyer), plus assist GMF with possible legal challenges to the program.

Douglas moved the committee recommending \$43,100 for its 2024 budget. Line items are \$40,600 for mitigation, \$1,000 for education events such as movie nights, and \$1,500 for professional consultation on nuisance trees. This request also asks that the funds be fungible and reallocated – subject to board review -- to other fire mitigation initiatives in the event if actual expenditures of the line items are lower than expected. There will be other grants funded by government agencies which may require cash matches as a qualification of receiving the grant. GMF must have a reserve for these grant opportunities. Douglas will prepare a document outlining the request and send it to committee members for review. Following the review, he is authorized to prepare the final budget request and submit it to trustees.

d. Education update Huizenga and Hunter going to Ute Pass Elementary Back-to-School night. Douglas asked for more recommendations on education by next meeting.

e. October Tip of the Month Douglas moved and Hunter seconded to adopt GMF's recently passed nuisance tree ordinance as October's tip. Motion passed unanimously.

f. Chipper Days Douglas reported September's event had record participation.

Huizenga said Chief Murphy wants to stop operating the chipper on GMF roads because they are too difficult. This opened discussion on creating a site for slash drop off. Hunter and Huizenga are talking with the scoutmaster of a local Boy Scout troop about helping residents move slash to the drop off site.

g. Data base – 73 members, including 11 new members this month.

h. Colorado Wildfire Preparedness Plan – Douglas is FMAC's default representative on the committee revising this. He is preparing a recommended update for the Town Manager.

i. Volunteer groups Douglas said it's important to keep records of all volunteer hours by committee and community members. This information often helps with grant applications. Douglas asked committee members to record hours already worked. Yingling is working to include this in data base.

j. Block captains Yingling said one has been recruited. He's working on recruiting more but no more leads so far.

6. NEW BUSINESS

- a. KFF grant Discussed as part of budget recommendation.
- b. Colorado Springs Utilities does not cut dead trees close to power lines on CSU property, nor does it permit anyone to do it, according to CUSP. Douglas moved the committee recommend that the Board of Trustees send a letter from the Town Manager, demanding cutting trees. Hunter seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

NOTE: Douglas later met with a CSU manager who said the information from CUSP was wrong, that the utility removes branches and trees within 10 feet of high voltage lines as required by law. Low voltage lines do not pose fire risks. Based on this clarification of CSU's policy, Douglas will not send the recommendation to the trustees

- 7. ADJOURNMENT** The committee adjourned at 7:39 pm. Next meeting is Monday, Oct. 30.

Colorado Springs utilities Specifications for trimming and removal of trees

Specification for Line Clearance: Minimum Vegetation Clearance Distance (MVCD)

For Utilities to meet its trimming goals, Contractor shall trim to the following specifications below, unless otherwise directed by PM. MVCD below is a recommendation and depends on the growth factor/species of the tree involved. Trees must be trimmed to maintain at least 3 years of contact-free clearance. The tops of the trees are to be rolled back away from the primary lines to stormproof the lines.

Mainline Secondary:	4-6 feet.
Service Lines:	1-4 feet
Guy Wires:	1-3 feet
Neutral Wires:	4-6 feet
Power Poles:	three feet circumference around the pole
Mainline Primary Lines:	7.2 kv-12.5 kv: >8-10 feet.
Sub Transmission Lines:	34.5 kv: 10-12 feet
Transmission Lines:	115 kv & 230kv: >20 feet

Overhanging Limbs

Limbs above primary conductors represent an extremely hazardous condition. Under snow, sleet or ice loading such limbs may break and drop onto conductors causing serious service interruptions. All limbs overhanging primary conductors from deciduous trees shall be removed. Overhanging limbs from conifer species shall be trimmed to provide adequate clearance to prevent outages due to snow weight bearing on the limb. Overhanging limbs may be allowed for secondary, services and streetlights providing the necessary MVCD was obtained, and the branch attachments are healthy.

Tree removal

If the trunk of the tree is within ten feet of CSU primary voltage 7200kV and above overhead power lines.

Utilities will safety the tree below the power lines and or remove the tree.

CSU does not remove trees for secondary voltage lines.

The customer can call Utilities one call 719-448-4800 for an electric service disconnect.

Line Clearing During Emergencies

During and following storm events restoration of electric service to customers will take precedence over Utilities vegetation management program. Work unrelated to the restoration of electric service shall not be performed during storm events. During such emergencies, only essential work shall be done per tree as required to rapidly and safely restore electric service. Contractor shall leave the jobsite in a safe condition. Final cleanup will be the responsibility of the property owner. Contractor shall be entitled to a day-for-day extension of time for Work stoppages due to storm events.

Managing Tree Hazards

An arborist can help you manage the trees on your property and can provide treatments that may help make your tree safer, reducing the risk associated with hazardous trees. An arborist familiar with hazard tree evaluation may suggest one or more of the following:

- **Remove the target.** While a home or a nearby power line cannot be moved, it is possible to move picnic tables, cars, landscape features, or other possible targets to prevent them from being hit by a falling tree.
- **Prune the tree.** Remove the defective branches of the tree. Because inappropriate pruning may weaken a tree, pruning work is best done by an ISA Certified Arborist.
- **Cable and brace the tree.** Provide physical support for weak branches and stems to increase their strength and stability.
- **Provide routine care.** Mature trees need routine care in the form of water, fertilizer (in some cases), mulch, and pruning as dictated by the season and their structure.
- **Remove the tree.** Some hazardous trees are best removed. If possible, plant a new tree in an appropriate place as a replacement.

Recognizing and reducing tree hazards not only increases the safety of your property and that of your neighbors but also improves the tree's health and may increase its longevity!

Ensuring Quality Care for Your Tree

Trees are assets to your home and community and deserve the best possible care. If you answered "yes" to any of the questions in the tree hazard checklist or see any of the defects contained in the illustrations, your tree should be examined by an ISA Certified Arborist.

For a list of ISA Certified Arborists in your area, please visit www.treesaregood.com. If your tree is located near a power line, contact your local electrical utility.

This brochure is one in a series published by the International Society of Arboriculture as part of its consumer information program. You may have additional interest in the following titles currently in the series:

- Avoiding Tree and Utility Conflicts
- Avoiding Tree Damage During Construction
- Benefits of Trees
- Buying High-Quality Trees
- Insect and Disease Problems
- Mature Tree Care
- New Tree Planting
- Plant Health Care
- Proper Mulching Techniques
- Pruning Mature Trees
- Pruning Young Trees
- Recognizing Tree Hazards
- Treatment of Trees Damaged by Construction
- Tree Selection
- Trees and Turf
- Value of Trees
- Why Hire an Arborist
- Why Topping Hurts Trees



Trees are an important part of our world. They offer a wide range of benefits to the environment and provide tremendous beauty.

However, trees may be dangerous. Trees or parts of trees may fall and cause injury to people or damage to property. We call trees in such situations hazardous, to signify the risk involved with their presence. While every tree has the potential to fall, only a small number actually hit something or someone.

It is an owner's responsibility to provide for the safety of trees on his or her property. This brochure provides some tips for identifying the common defects associated with tree hazards. However, evaluating the seriousness of these defects is best done by a professional arborist. Regular tree care will help identify hazardous trees and the risk they present. Once the hazard is recognized, steps may be taken to reduce the likelihood of the tree falling and injuring someone.

Hazardous Trees and Utility Lines

Trees that fall into utility lines have additional serious consequences. Not only can they injure people or property near the line, but hitting a line may cause power outages, surges, fires, and other damage. Downed lines still conducting electricity are especially dangerous. A tree with a potential to fall into a utility line is a very serious situation.



Developed by the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA), a nonprofit organization supporting tree care research around the world and dedicated to the care and preservation of shade and ornamental trees. For further information, contact ISA, P.O. Box 3129, Champaign, IL 61826-3129, U.S.

www.isa-arbor.com
www.treesaregood.com

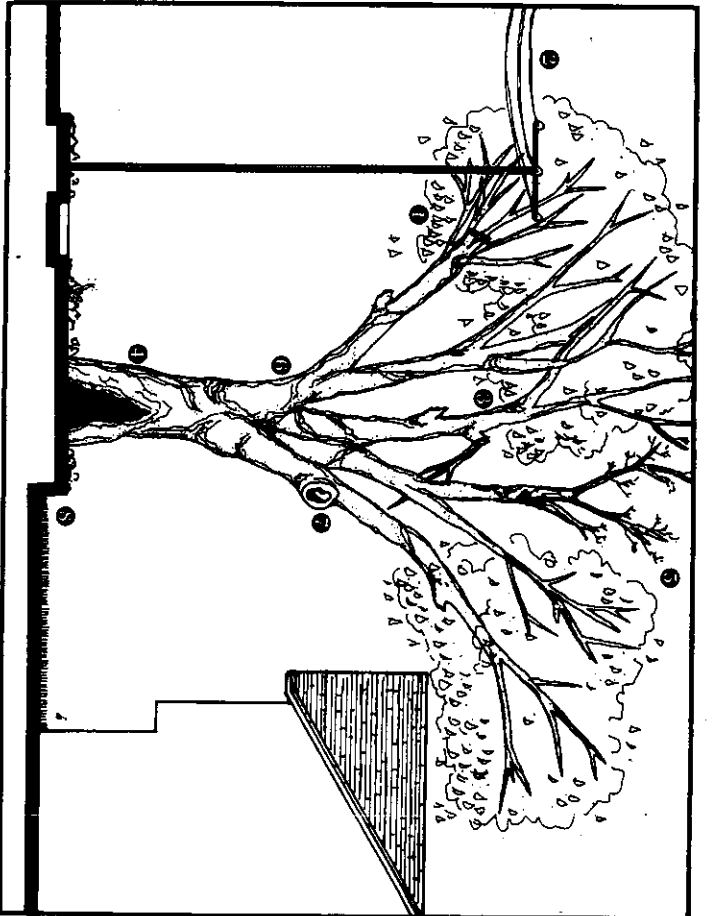
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Tree Hazard Checklist

Consider these questions:

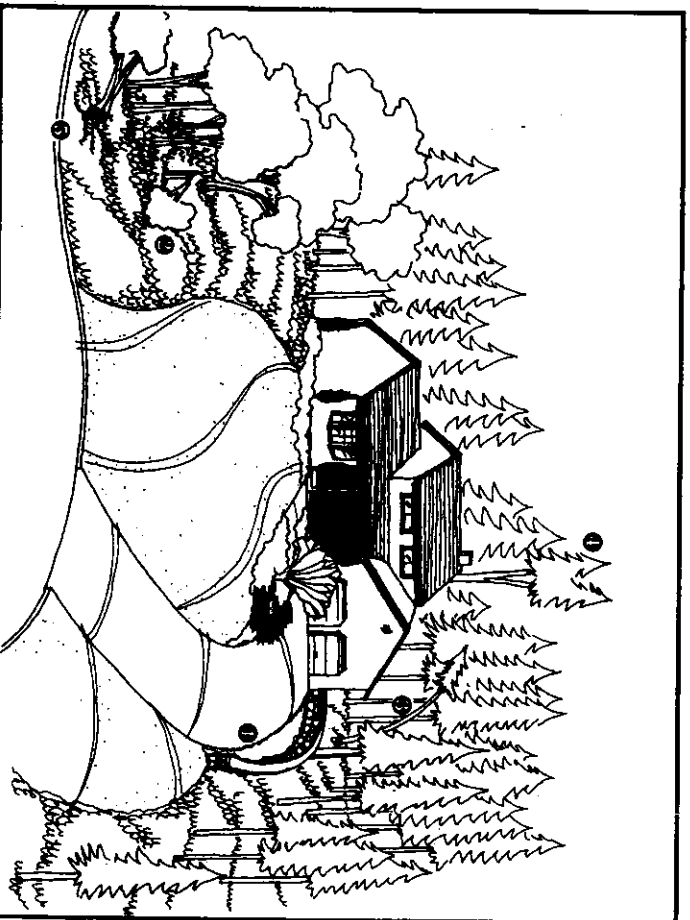
- Are there large dead branches in the tree?
- Are there detached branches hanging in the tree?
- Does the tree have cavities or rotten wood along the trunk or in major branches?
- Are mushrooms present at the base of the tree?
- Are there cracks or splits in the trunk or where branches are attached?
- Have any branches fallen from the tree?
- Have adjacent trees fallen over or died?
- Has the trunk developed a strong lean?
- Do many of the major branches arise from one point on the trunk?
- Have the roots been broken off, injured, or damaged by lowering the soil level, installing pavement, repairing sidewalks, or digging trenches?
- Has the site recently been changed by construction, raising the soil level, or installing lawns?
- Have the leaves prematurely developed an unusual color or size?
- Have trees in adjacent wooded areas been removed?
- Has the tree been topped or otherwise heavily pruned?



Defects in Urban Trees

The following are defects or signs of possible defects in urban trees (see figure):

1. regrowth from topping, line clearance, or other pruning
2. electrical line adjacent to tree
3. broken or partially attached branch
4. open cavity in trunk or branch
5. dead or dying branches
6. branches arising from a single point on the trunk
7. decay and rot present in old wounds
8. recent change in grade or soil level, or other construction



Defects in Rural Trees

The following are defects or signs of possible defects in rural trees (see figure):

1. recent site construction, grading and tree removal, clearing of forests for development
2. previous tree failures in the local area
3. tree leaning near a target
4. forked trunk; branches and stems equal in size
5. wet areas with shallow soil

Greetings Committee/Commission Chairs & Co-Chairs,

The Town of Green Mountain Falls recently adopted [Ordinance No. 2023-04](#) which provides some clarification on residency, terms and term limits for the Parks, Recreation & Trails Advisory Committee, the Fire Mitigation Advisory Committee and the Planning Commission. The intent of this change was to clarify the municipal code and create some efficiency around appointments. Previously, many of the members were not appointed to a specific term and therefore created some confusion in regards to whether they were completing a term of a previous member or beginning a new term. Additionally, the Board of Trustees wanted to extend the opportunity to serve the community to members who may reside outside of town limits. This opportunity has been extended to the Parks, Recreation and Trails Advisory Committee and the Fire Mitigation Advisory Committee. The Town must comply with statutory requirements of residency for the Planning Commission and the Board of Trustees.

All members of committees/commission wishing to seek reappointment must complete a [Committee Application](#). These applications should be approved at the committee level prior to appointment by the Board of Trustees. In order to assist your process, please complete the memo for your committee and submit it to the Town Clerk for inclusion in the December Board of Trustees meeting agenda. In addition to the memo, please also include copies of the committee member applications and any additional documentation that you feel is relevant. Please reach out if you anticipate any circumstances that will prevent your committee from meeting this timeline. Below is the deadline for material submission for the December BoT meeting:

December 12, 2023 Board of Trustees Meeting (Meeting materials due by COB on Thursday, December 7th)

Please reach out if you need any assistance from town staff and thanks for another amazing year of service to the Town of Green Mountain Falls!

With gratitude,

Becky

Becky Frank
Town Manager
Green Mountain Falls, Colorado
719-684-9414 ext. 5
manager@gmfco.us
www.gmfco.us



FIRE MITIGATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE AGENDA MEMO

DATE: ____/____/2023	AGENDA NO	SUBJECT: 2024 FMAC Committee Appointment Recommendations
Presented by		

2023 Terms

Name	Role	Date of Appointment	End Term Date	Term Length
David Douglas	Chair	11/17/2020	12/31/2023	
Lisa Huizinga	Member	3/2/2021		
Vacant	Member			
Kelly Hunter	Member	3/15/2022		
Paul Yingling	Member	8/16/2022		

2024 Recommendations for Appointment to Board of Trustees

Name	Role	Date of Appointment	End Term Date	Term Length
	Chair			
	Co-Chair			
	Member			
	Member			
	Member			

Please complete the above table with recommendations for 2024 appointments. Two members will be for 1-year terms ending 12/31/2024 and three members will be for 3-year terms ending 12/31/2027. After these initial terms have been fulfilled, all subsequent terms will be for two years. Refer to Ordinance 2023-04 for guidance:

<https://greenmountainfalls.colorado.gov/sites/greenmountainfalls/files/documents/Ordinance%202023-04%20Terms-%20Residency.pdf>