

# MINUTES

## Elk Springs HOA Fire Mitigation Committee Meeting 5:30 pm, July 6, 2022 Zoom Conferencing

### I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:32 p.m.

### II. Record attendance

A quorum was verified, committee members in attendance were Ed Holub, Tom Dunlop, Jeanne Johnson, and Robin Van Norman.

Community members present were Greg Boecker, Joyce Kauffman, Abbie Kroesen, and Dan Cutler.

Also in attendance was Sam Engen with IMM and Mike Uncapher with Western Vegetation Management.

### I. Approval of prior meeting minutes

Ed motioned to approve the meeting minutes from January 31, 2022. Tom seconded, and all were in favor.

### II. Discussion and Action Items

- a) **Develop recommendations for fire boxes:** Carbondale Fire is recommending that if the HOA plans to keep the fire boxes we need to hire a qualified person to inspect them each summer. Ed motioned to recommend to the Board that the HOA hire someone next spring/summer to check the hoses and get a good accounting of what is in the boxes and the condition of the equipment. Tom seconded, and all were in favor. Tom will work on getting a quote from Carbondale Fire on what this will cost to share with the Board.
- b) **Develop comprehensive fire mitigation policies:** The FMC reviewed a draft policy. Some discussion was on what the removal requirement will be for dead/diseased trees, and can it be tiered over the first couple of years while owners get acclimated to the policy. IMM recommended the committee investigate how this will be enforced and who will make the determination on what needs to be removed. Ed made a motion to approve presenting this initial draft to the Board at their next meeting for discussion and note that the goal will be to have a more finalized draft for review with the entire membership at the annual member meeting before having the board vote on adopting the policy. Tom made a comment that the goal of this policy should be safety and not beautification. Jeanne seconded, and all were in favor.
- c) **Review grant related fire mitigation work completed to date:** The HOA has spent \$96,812.50 of the matching funds grant and there is a remaining balance of \$89,037.50 to still use on fire mitigation projects (half from grant and half from reserve funds). Funds have been used on several acres of lop and scatter work, ingress and egress cutting along the roadsides and the chip and haul project. Ed

informed the FMC that we have received a check reimbursement from the grant for monies used so far.

**d) Develop recommendations for grant related fire mitigation work for fall**

**2022/winter 2023:** Ed made a motion that the FMC make a recommendation to the Board to consider the following fire mitigation projects for the fall of 2022:

- Another round of HOA funded chip and haul on private property with the same guidelines as last years project.
- To use any remaining funds after the chip and haul project on lop and scatter work along HOA lands downhill from the private lots, cutting down dead, diseased and declining trees to improve forest health and reduce rate of spread during a wildfire.

Some discussion was had on looking into mowing common areas out in the back filings. Jeanne seconded, and all were in favor.

**e) Discuss projects for inclusion in new grant application (estimated to be due**

**October 2022):** Ed informed the FMC that there is another grant window opening in August and the deadline will be in October for submission. It will be similar to the matching funds grant awarded to the HOA in 2021.

Projects ideas discussed were as follows:

- Continue to assist owners in the removal of dead/diseased/declining trees from private property and to establish/maintain defensible space.
- Continue to thin trees along paved roads to increase their effectiveness as a fuel break and to facilitate safe evacuation/fire response.
- Go in 35' from pavement edge, removing half the trees.
- Remove ladder fuels along the north side of the powerline to help keep the fire out of the PJ canopy.
- Chip cut materials rather than lop and scatter.
- Clear sagebrush along HOA/private boundary so there can be an annual fuel break mowed through the grasses that would grow back in place of the sage.

Ed motioned to present the board with an outline for future grant funds at their upcoming meeting and seek approval for applying for another Fire Mitigation Grant. Tom seconded, and all were in favor.

**III. Additional Business**

There was a question regarding a specific plan and scope of work for any future grant opportunities. It was noted that it will be the goal to apply for the grant in a way that provides flexibility for Elk Springs HOA to address its fire mitigation objectives.

**IV. Open Forum**

**V. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.