



Firewise Committee Report
July 7, 2022
Bobby Clevenger, Committee Chairman
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Charter: The Firewise Committee works in support of the community in helping to develop fire mitigation strategies for the community, as well as each individual homeowner in Big Elk Meadows. – **Needs approval**

Members: Bobby Clevenger – Chair, (Collin Isenhardt, Cynthia Ray, Elaine Murphy and Jim Murphy - **upon approval by the Board**)

Firewise Committee Meeting

A regular meeting was held on Sunday, July 3, 2022, to discuss the action items facing the group for upcoming fire season. In attendance, Bobby, Collin, Elaine and Jim. Items on the agenda were:

- COSWAP Program
- Chipper Program
- Home Mitigation Program
- Common Area Mitigation – Burn Scar Recovery
- LTP Committee involvement

We are in contact with the people at COSWAP, as well as their project manager. They are slammed as we would expect but have preliminarily committed to have their part of the project completed by the end of 2023. They will get back to us and confirm start dates.

The Chipper Program needs to have the liability waiver approved by the Board with the support of a legal review by the HOA attorney. We need this before we can start the program. The waiver is attached. **Board Action Item**

Several homes were reviewed for fire mitigation in the month of June. The homeowners all were eager to get started or continue in their efforts to mitigate around their homes. The committee discussed that we need to develop a communication process with BEMA, via Operations, on locations where homeowners are working to achieve their 200-foot thinning requirements around their properties. Most of these efforts, especially behind Hickory, include thinning BEMA common land. Permission to clear behind those homes was approved when the Board approved the Firewise plan two years ago. We would like acknowledgment of that permission to the homeowners, with a proper notification process developed with Operations. **Board Action Item**

Common area mitigation will be part of the planning process the Firewise Committee can bring to the LTP Committee for the overall safety of the community. Part of this program included the burn scar recovery up near the horse pasture but unfortunately, we lost our expert who resigned recently from the committee. We will need to do some work here.

LTP - There is an issue with the boundary fence line up in the horse pasture. We need to determine if there is a problem with what the Forest Service has marked versus other surveys that were possibly done that disputes the line. Also the two gates at the fence line need to be addressed. One is damaged and our security is compromised in that area. Do we need both gates? **Board Action Item**

New Item: There was a suggestion from the group related to the home mitigation program. If the Board were to establish a regular assessment for each home related to fire mitigation, and when a homeowner turned in sufficient work hours performing mitigation around their home, then they would be credited for their “sweat equity” and the mitigation assessment returned or credited to their next mitigation assessment. All monies not returned would go into a fund to supply tools, equipment and PPE to support the home mitigation program. The funding would make the equipment continually available to the homeowners for their mitigation work. **Board Discussion**

Our next meeting is scheduled for Sunday, August 7th at 9:00 am. Our next workday is July 23rd at 8:45 am. Volunteers are always welcome.