

MINUTES
PUBLIC HEARING ON DRAFT
CASTLE VALLEY HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN &
HAZARD MITIGATION COMMITTEE MEETING
OCTOBER 14th 2015 AT 6:00 P.M.
TOWN HALL - 2 CASTLE VALLEY DR.

Members Present: Jazmine Duncan, Leta Vaughn, Bill Rau, Dave Erley, Greg Halliday

Public Present: Jayne May, Sean Speidel

Recorder: Alison Fuller

CALL TO ORDER

Jazmine Duncan called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

1. Public Hearing on Draft Castle Valley Hazard Mitigation Plan

Jayne May thanked the committee for all their work on the Plan and asked if the Plan was a proactive plan as opposed to a mitigation plan and how it would be integrated with Town Ordinances.

Duncan stated that the plan is proactive and it will be adopted by the Town Council and hopefully the ordinances and policies would be adopted through the formal process.

May stated in the past it was nice that property owners kept the edge of their property mowed. She thought educating the community about planting trees and other fuel away from buildings would be a very good thing.

Duncan stated that there are a few mitigations similar to what May suggested throughout the plan.

May inquired about the use of goats for weeding in the valley and asked if they were encouraging more goats.

Duncan stated that the idea was to hire a heard for weeding services.

There was discussion around the plan getting the Town ready for a disaster and looking good in the eyes of FEMA.

May hoped that the Town would be able to get flood insurance through FEMA and stated that there is one very expensive company that would insure for floods, but FEMA seemed like a better option.

There was discussion around FEMA flood insurance, and it being more expensive than some mortgage payments in areas. The Town had been advised against joining the Flood insurance program since the map could require property owners with mortgages to have FEMA insurance. The group discussed making insurance companies and banks aware of the situation in Castle Valley for better insurance coverage.

May welcomed the Fire District to come to their property for control burns to help keep fuel down in the flood plain.

There was discussion around lots 276 and 277 being problematic for flooding since there is hardly any drop in elevation and the town needing to have access to points along the drainage that need regular maintenance like the said area.

There was discussion around the old catchment ponds in the valley and how they should have stayed operational, however the development of the valley did not go in that direction.

May stated that when the bad fire occurred in the La Sal Mountains, 3 neighbors called when they saw the first puff of smoke and requested a helicopter to address the fire, the Forest Service did not want to spend the money on a helicopter, but spent massive amounts of money since that fire turned into a massive fire. She stated that a similar thing happened when Dewey Bridge burned down and a pumper truck was sent instead of a helicopter. She wanted to know if there is going to be something in the plan to help coordinate responses to avoid such loss due to not sending the right equipment.

Duncan stated that since those incidents it seemed like the response and communication between agencies had improved, and sometimes there are one offs and not everything can always be mitigated.

May asked in regards to recent events in California, how things had progressed, and thanked the committee again for their work.

Sean Speidel from Daystar asked what the vegetation in the La Sals looked like a 100 years ago. He wondered if a lot of fire suppression was making way for more and bigger fires.

Erley stated that the grazing management groups he's a part of have been talking about bringing in goats for brush management to help control the Serviceberry and the Oak. He stated that Pinhook Basin is recovering from the large fire due to good weather and management practices. He felt masticating the Oaks in the watershed is a good thing and it's good to hear these comments from the community.

Duncan stated that the Catastrophic Fire Plan is putting money into the Willow Basin area and installing 7,000 gallon water tanks in that area for fighting fires.

There was discussion around ponds and large water basins that would allow helicopters and fire trucks to get water for fighting fires. Vegetation around ponds is not safe for helicopters to come near for water collection.

Duncan closed the public hearing.

2. Open Public Comment

Speidel stated that it was nice that the plan identified the weaknesses within the valley and was grateful that the group had put it together.

3. Approval of the Minutes

***September 9th, 2015**

Rau moved to approve the minutes, Vaughn seconded, the Motion passed. Halliday & Erley abstained.

4. Finalize plan incorporating public comments.

The group reviewed the comments that were submitted by the Planning and Land Use Commission, Ron Mengel (a former Water Agent & Fire District Commissioner), and members of the committee.

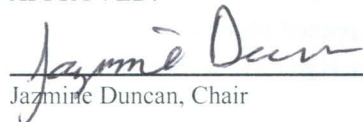
Erley stated that in the drainage section of the plan Cain Hollow was left out and should be included with the proper spelling.

Town clerk pointed out that the town is already eligible for FEMA assistance and grants because the Town adopted the Southeastern Utah Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan. She reviewed the edits she made from the above mentioned groups. Several parts of the plan were edited for further clarity, decisiveness and precision. There were additional mitigation strategies that were added in the Fire, Severe Weather, Communications, & Water Contamination sections.

Rau moved to adjourn, Erley seconded, the Motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

APPROVED:

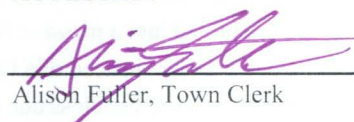


Jazmine Duncan, Chair

11/11/15

Date:

ATTESTED:



Alison Fuller, Town Clerk

11.11.15

Date: