

Firewise Meeting Minutes  
September 8, 2025

In attendance: Gary Thorpe, Ed Hallyburton, Ruth Robertson

New Business:

Ed will contact Devan to post the previously requested Volunteer Hourly Work Sheet and the Time and Expense Investment Examples handout on the "Original" Pine Mountain Residents Facebook Page as well as to the POA website so more members will have access to this information. The Time Sheets need to be completed by PM residents and returned to a member of the Firewise Committee or to the POA office by no later than Oct 31. The current PM Bulletin Board outside of the old guard shack (now the mailroom) is not being used. Gary suggested that posting these materials inside the mailroom is another possibility for a member bulletin board location.

The status of the POA updating of the members handbook to include inserting emergency action guidance is still in limbo. Ed said there is a problem with being able to locate copies of many PM handouts/handbooks. Gary will send Ed the link to [pinemountainnews.com](http://pinemountainnews.com) which contains recent copies of member handbooks and other topics.

Gary will email Ed a copy of the sign out sheet that has been used in the past for PM residents to sign out the Firewise equipment that has been purchased with Firewise grant money. Since that equipment is housed at the POA maintenance shed, members will need to sign out the equipment from a POA Board Member.

The POA should continue to encourage creation/maintenance of ATV trails/fire breaks and access for responders. Brian Rieper appears to be the main contact for trails maintenance.

Gary has talked with the SMFD about location(s) for water points to support firefighters. White Oak Creek has a protected status for crawfish and may not be an ideal location for a water point, but PM's duck pond is a candidate for a designated water point location.

Open Discussion:

The Firewise Committee has determined that the old golf course location is the best spot for a debris pile to be burned in order to reduce the fire risk potential. However, we do not recommend that the burning of a debris pile be a bonfire "social event". Burke County burning permits require that someone remain with a debris pile until the fire is completely out. Igniting a large "bonfire" for an evening social event does not allow sufficient time for a debris pile fire to be completely out before participants would be leaving the area. Burn piles should be burned starting in the morning to allow sufficient time for the fire to be completely out before being left unattended. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Tee Drive location is not recommended as a debris pile location and that debris needs to be removed and relocated to the old golf course location or transported to a county burn pile.

Although recurring collection points for residential debris pickup is individual addresses, the use of PM's chipper is still unavailable due to gasoline being poured into the diesel fuel system rendering it inoperable. There is no current projection of when the chipper will be repaired.

Ed placed a call to his contact for Hurricane Helene debris collection to inquire as to whether continued

pickup is available for Pine Mountain. Current status is that further collection paid for by Burke County is no longer available but Ed's contact will check on whether there are other options to help PM get the rest of the debris piles out of here. While this man was on the phone, Gary and Ed were able to get the size of the trailers that were used to load the PM debris for removal. Gary will use this information to determine the approximate number of cubic yards of Hurricane Helene debris that was hauled out of Pine Mountain. This is critical information for our committee as we will need to input that data for Pine Mountain's 2025 fuel removal totals to maintain our "in good standing" status as a Recognized Firewise Community.

We will have a Firewise Community Meeting scheduled at the Pavilion for Saturday, September 27 from 10:00 am to 12 noon to guidance to PM residents on the recording of their time sheet data and answer any questions they may have about our Firewise program and the importance of our continuing to be a Recognized Firewise Community. Gary, Ed and Ruth will conduct the discussion and answer questions. Brochures and Handouts will be available for residents from NFPA.

Brochures and Handouts from NFPA contain a lot of information about the guidance of using hardscape applications around our homes and buildings. The NFPA poster for Reducing Wildfire Risks in the Home Ignition Zone is an excellent resource for residents to use and will be available at the Sep 27 Firewise Community Meeting.

Gary noted that most of the topics on today's meeting agenda depends on POA assistance in passing information to PM residents. The POA Board of Directors needs to ensure residents have access to information on both the "Original" and "Official" Facebook pages and to the POA website, as well as sharing information on a PM Bulletin board.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday, Nov 3, at 7pm at the Robertson home.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.