

PROTECTIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE – AGENDA – REVISED



Agenda for the Protective Services Committee Meeting scheduled for Thursday, May 12, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the portable classroom at Anmore Elementary School, 30 Elementary Road, Anmore, BC

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Recommendation: That the agenda be approved.

3. MINUTES

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(a) Minutes of the Meeting held on March 31, 2016

Recommendation: That the Minutes of the meeting held on March 31, 2016 be adopted.

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

6. NEW BUSINESS

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(a) Wildfire Protection Plan Report – Final Review

Committee to review the Committee's Wildfire Protection Plan Report (final draft) for future consideration by Council.

7. ADJOURNMENT

PROTECTIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES



Minutes of the Protective Services Committee Meeting held on Thursday, March 31, 2016 in the portable classroom at Anmore Elementary School, 30 Elementary Road, Anmore BC

Members Present

Councillor Ann-Marie Thiele, Chair
Mel Mercier
Olen Vanderleen

Members Absent

Sheri DeVito

1. Call to Order

Chair Thiele called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m.

2. ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

Nil

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

It was Moved and Seconded:

“That the Agenda be approved.”

Carried Unanimously

4. DELEGATIONS

Nil

5. MINUTES

(a) Minutes of the Meeting held on August 27, 2015

It was Moved and Seconded:

“That the Minutes of the Protective Services Committee Meeting held on August 27, 2015 be adopted as circulated.”

Carried Unanimously

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Members asked about receiving a copy of Mr. Blackwell's presentation.

Action Item: Chair Thiele to contact Mr. Blackwell to enquire on the status of providing members with a copy of his slide presentation.

Chair Thiele reported that the evacuation plan prepared for the Village is more of a guideline for how to create a plan for a municipality, adding that the Committee must create their own evacuation plan, to include GIS/Lidar mapping. She added that the Village is currently working on creating new mapping.

Chair Thiele reported that she performed a thorough review of the existing Wildfire Protection Plan and created a new draft version.

Action Item: Chair Thiele to share her draft of the Wildfire Protection Plan with members for review prior to the next meeting on April 14, 2016.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Nil

8. NEW BUSINESS**(a) Wildfire Protection Plan Report**

Members reviewed the draft version of the Report to Council, and agreed to expand on the report to include the following points:

- Importance of providing Council with the necessary framework of why the Committee is proposing a number of recommendations that they deem critical
- To arrange priorities in a new order of importance
- Include the need for an evacuation plan
- Plan needs to be more action oriented
- Define helicopter access and/or alternatives in the event of an emergency
- Clearly define a post fire rehabilitation plan and identify the steep slopes
- Determine the realistic requirements within Village bylaws within the Fire Smart BC guidelines to reduce the risk of wildfire hazards

Action Item: Chair Thiele to contact Crown Lands and BC Hydro to request a status update regarding their fuel management and emergency plans.

Action Item: Chair Thiele to contact Fire Chief Jay Sharpe to verify access to helicopter services in the event of an emergency.

Action Item: Members to review their notes to further investigate the topic of steep slope stability and post fire rehabilitation.

Action Item: Chair Thiele to contact BC Transmission Corporation to ensure power line safety and continuing management.

Members agreed to review the draft report prior to the next meeting in April 14, and to bring forward their recommendations at that time. Members then agreed to have Chair Thiele finalize the draft report to Council.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Certified Correct:

Approved:

Christine Milloy
Manager of Corporate Services

Councillor Ann-Marie Thiele
Chair, Protective Services Committee

WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN REVIEW

**Prepared by the Village of Anmore Protective Services Committee
May, 2016**

1. INTRODUCTION

In 2007, the Village of Anmore engaged forestry consultants, B. A. Blackwell & Associates, to prepare a Community Wildfire Protection Plan for the Village of Anmore. The Plan set out 22 recommendations for consideration by the Village. In January, 2015, Council established a new Protective Services Committee (“the Committee”). Council then referred the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (“the Plan”) to the Committee for review. The Protective Services Committee met five times to discuss the Plan:

- In June, 2015, the Committee met to initiate a review of the Plan, and to discuss an approach to addressing the 22 recommendations in the Plan.
- In August, 2015, Bruce Blackwell, principal at B.A. Blackwell & Associates, reviewed the Plan with the Committee and provided additional background information and insight.
- In November, 2015, the Committee held a workshop to review and prioritize the recommendations contained in the Wildfire Protection Plan.
- In March, 2016, the Committee reviewed this report and provided feedback to Chair Thiele.
- In May, 2016, the Committee finalized this report and referred it back to Council.

2. KEY PRINCIPLES

Over the course of the Committee’s discussions, two key themes emerged. The Committee would like to highlight these themes in the hope that they will act as guiding principles for the Village as it moves forward with wildfire protection planning.

1. Our community needs to self-identify as “FireSmart”. In the same way that the Village considers the financial and environmental implications of growth and development, FireSmart planning should permeate all facets of planning. From lot setbacks and roofing materials, to allocation of staff time and budgeting for new initiatives, the Village has many tools at its disposal for building a FireSmart community.

2. Wildfires can move in both directions: from the forest into the residential areas of the village, and from the residential areas into the forest. Prevention planning should take a two-pronged approach:

- Local government should implement policies and regulations that protect our surrounding forests, thereby protecting our residents and their homes.
- Individual homeowners should take responsibility for ensuring they are “fire smart” in their own homes and backyards, ensuring greater safety not only for their own residences but those of their neighbours and the surrounding forests.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

In order to provide Council with a framework for implementing the recommendations contained in the Wildfire Protection Plan, the Committee used a priority-based approach, assigning each recommendation a priority category of A, B or C (with ‘A’ being the highest priority). Recommendations were prioritized based on the perceived magnitude of risk mitigation effects and the ability of the Village to implement the recommendations.

The ranking system is intended to provide a framework to what otherwise might seem an unwieldy and daunting report. “Priority A” recommendations are those that could be easily implemented or are of such an urgent nature that they bear immediate attention. “Priority B” recommendations are considered longer-term solutions that could be implemented over time. “Priority C” recommendations are items that may be implemented when opportunities arise (e.g. Recommendation #1 - Building a FireSmart show home), or that the Committee felt may be beyond the current Village’s capacity (e.g. Recommendation #9 - Work with the Building Policy Branch). Where a recommendation has already been implemented or is captured in another recommendation, a priority was not set; these recommendations are noted at the bottom of the table.

Following is a list of the Community Wildfire Protection Plan recommendations, categorized by priority level, along with the Committee’s comments on each of the recommendations:

#	RECOMMENDATION (with Comments)
PRIORITY ‘A’ RECOMMENDATIONS	
2	<p>APPLY for UBCM FUEL TREATMENT PILOT PROGRAM GRANT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Having completed the first phase of the province’s Wildfire Strategic Prevention Initiative (SWPI) funding program (i.e. development of a Wildfire Protection Plan), the Village should apply for this next phase of the program. • The remaining 2016 application deadlines are April 29 and September 30.

3	<p>USE the VILLAGE WEBSITE to COMMUNICATE WITH RESIDENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide links to the FireSmart Website. • Include information on the Village’s website (citing the Wildfire Protection Plan) as to why residents should think about wildfire planning and prevention. • Specifically address campfires and burning in Anmore, and provide information as to the rationale for fire bans and risks to residents.
4	<p>COMMUNICATE via VILLAGE SIGNBOARDS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During fire season, a ranking graphic should be displayed on the signboards in front of the Village Hall and at Sunnyside Road & 1st Avenue. • Ideally, the signboards would include a reminder that park traffic should give way to emergency vehicles.
7	<p>SET THE GOAL of BEING a FIRESMART COMMUNITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This would include creating a Wildfire Bylaw. • Incorporate FireSmart practices into the Building and Zoning Bylaws. • Fuel management measures on public and private property could be included in the bylaws. • Recognize that the entire village is part of the Urban Wildland Interface, not only residences that sit at the forest’s edge.
13	<p>DEVELOP an EVACUATION PLAN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The lack of an evacuation plan continues to be outstanding issue in emergency planning in the Village. It should be a high priority. • This should be considered when planning future roads and subdivisions.
6	<p>INCREASE SETBACKS on the FOREST INTERFACE to 10 METRES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider prohibiting flammable structures and fuel load (sheds, wooden fences, woodpiles, etc.) along lot lines that lie along the forest interface. • Incorporate the new setbacks into Anmore’s new Building and Zoning Bylaws.
8	<p>REQUIRE FIRE-RETARDANT ROOFING MATERIALS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This measure is part of the greater vision for a FireSmart community. • This could be addressed in the Building Bylaw review.
14	<p>DEVELOP an ALTERNATE COMMAND CENTRE for the SVFD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Sasamat Volunteer Fire Department has a Mobile Command Centre. • This item should be referred to the Emergency Preparedness Committee to determine if the Village should have its own Mobile Command Centre for its Emergency Operations Committee.
19	<p>DEVELOP a FUEL BREAK PLAN & FUEL TREATMENT PRESCRIPTIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply for funding under the Province’s Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative (SWPI) grant program to fund this next phase of wildfire protection planning. • Explore funding options under SWPI to fund the construction of fuel breaks. • Consider using current and future walking trails as potential fuel breaks, especially new trail systems (recognizing that fuel breaks are wider than traditional trails). • Explore opportunities with the Province to create fuel breaks around the Village on Crown land.

PRIORITY 'B' RECOMMENDATIONS	
1	<p>CONSTRUCT A FIRESMART SHOW HOME</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rather than working with a local developer to construct a FireSmart show home, the Village could consider this recommendation when re-building the Village Hall; perhaps the new Village Hall could be a showcase for the FireSmart program.
10	<p>LOBBY THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT TO DEVELOP FUEL MANAGEMENT PLANS ON CROWN LAND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Village could contact the Ministry of Forests to request that fuel management plans be developed for this area. • Village Staff could contact the ministry to inquire about the status of any plans that may be in place. • While this recommendation may not be practicable at this time, the Village should be prepared to take advantage of opportunities for communication and collaboration with the Province should they arise in future.
12	<p>IMPROVE ACCESS to ISOLATED PROPERTIES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify adequate access for evacuation and fire control. • Consider mitigative measures for isolated properties when planning for future development or re-development.
17	<p>FUEL INVENTORY</p> <p>This recommendation should be implemented after a fuel treatment pilot project is carried out (ref. Recommendation #2).</p>
18	<p>THINNING PROGRAM</p> <p>This recommendation should be implemented after a fuel treatment pilot project is carried out (ref. Recommendation #2).</p>
20	<p>WORK with BC TRANSMISSION CORPORATION to ENSURE SAFETY of TRANSMISSION CORRIDOR</p> <p>Staff should contact the BCTC to ensure that this recommendation is carried out.</p>
21	<p>BUILD ON EXISTING FIREBREAKS</p> <p>This recommendation should be implemented when the larger fuel break plan is developed (ref. Recommendation #19).</p>
22	<p>DEVELOP A POST-FIRE REHABILITATION PLAN</p> <p>While a Rehabilitation Plan is important, other phases of the Wildfire Protection Plan need to be implemented first. Given the Village's limited resources, this should be a long-term goal on the continuum of wildfire planning.</p>
PRIORITY "C" RECOMMENDATIONS	
5	<p>SASAMAT VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT EDUCATION & AWARENESS PROGRAM</p> <p>This item should be referred to the SVFD for comment.</p>
9	<p>WORK WITH THE BUILDING POLICY BRANCH</p> <p>The Committee is unsure if this is a realistic goal given the Village's limited resources.</p>
16	<p>SVFD TRAINING</p> <p>This item should be referred to the SVFD for comment.</p>

UNRANKED RECOMMENDATIONS	
11	<p>PURCHASE AND MAINTAIN AN EMERGENCY SPRINKLER KIT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Sasamat Volunteer Fire Department has wildland interface fire sprinklers that cover 25-40 foot circles. • The Port Moody Fire Department has a sprinkler trailer though they may need it at the same time as Anmore if a larger fire were to occur. • Currently there is a “gentlemen’s agreement” in place regarding mutual aid between the SVFD and PMFD.
15	<p>HELICOPTER ON CALL LOCALLY DURING FIRE SEASON</p> <p>The Ministry of Forests has assured the Village that a helicopter would be readily available in the event of a forest fire.</p>

4. ACTION PLAN

It is hoped that Council will receive this report and adopt the recommendations contained in the Wildfire Protection Plan. Next steps could include:

- Directing staff to implement key recommendations as soon as possible (e.g. updating the Village website, developing an evacuation plan, using Village signboards during fire season).
- Incorporating key recommendations into the Village’s 2016 Strategic Plan and, by extension, staff work plans.
- Incorporating recommended changes in the in the upcoming Zoning, Building and Tree Management Bylaw reviews.
- Referral of this report to the Sasamat Fire Department Chief and Deputy Chief for comment.
- Benchmarking at regular intervals (semi-annually over the next two years, and annually thereafter) to ensure that the Community Wildfire Protection Plan and this report become “living documents”, helping to keep wildfire planning top of mind for staff and future Councils.