

TREE, BRUSH, VEGETATION AND NOXIOUS WEEDS COMMITTEE

May 7, 2021

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 1:00 pm.

Present: Peggy Olds (Chair), Valerie Harrison, Ron Brumbaugh, Pam Harris, Diane Mangels, Tracy Lofstrom (Surfside Manager), Guest: Gwen Wagner

Introduction and Welcome: Peggy welcomed all members, guest and staff.

Old Business:

--**April, 2021 Minutes:** The final April 2021 minutes were submitted and approved by the Board.

--**Compliance Automation:** Tracy selected HOA Life software for compliance tracking and provided a demonstration of the package. She is in the final interview stage with two candidates for the compliance investigator position. Tree committee volunteers will continue to provide training and field support once the position is filled.

New Business:

--**Tree Report/Discussion:** See attached summary report.

--**Compliance Schedule:** The committee discussed ideas for a yearly proactive compliance schedule for vegetation management. Tracy requested the new software and compliance staff be in place first, then if needed, a compliance schedule could be adopted at a later date. Committee agreed.

--**Critical Areas Resource Lands Ordinance (CARL):** Peggy reviewed the history of Surfside's interaction with Pacific county in development of the 2018 Shoreline Master Plan (SMP) and CARL ordinances. Tracy sent documentation of Board's activities related CARL activities to Pacific county staff. Surfside has significant exemptions from CARL related to setbacks and vegetation management due to covenants grandfathered in prior to adoption of revised SMP and CARL. Tentatively, a workshop for the Board will be conducted in August after new Board members are elected. The committee recommended more written documentation or a follow-up public meeting to discuss outcomes of the workshop and end any further confusion on this subject. Tracy agreed.

--**Surf Insider article:** See attached. Edits were suggested and accepted. Peggy will contact Lani Karvia to confirm availability of PCFD#1 staff to conduct defensible space audits. These audits are free of charge for Surfside members.

--**Member Contacts:** Peggy mentioned contact with 2 members requesting more information on completing maintenance work.

Meeting adjourned at 1:58PM

Next Meeting: Friday, June 4, 2021 at 1:00PM

MAY 2021 TREE REPORT*

Prepared by: Peggy Olds, TBVN Chairperson

There were 9 New Cases and 20 cases closed March 28-April 21, 2021.

5 = First Letter = L

0 = Second Letter = W

0 = Fine Letter = F

3 = Tree Plan = TP

0 = Referred to Attorney

0 = Proactive

0 = Escrow

9 = Member Submitted

20 cases were closed during this period: 5524, 5594, 5595, 5720, 5721, 5734, 5736, 5744, 5745, 5773, 5782, 5790, 5798, 5800, 5803, 5811, 5812, 5818, 5822, 5843

14 cases are in fine status

Total (estimated) open cases = 162*

*Note: Amounts are best estimates due to the departure of the compliance inspector.

Defensible Space: Preparing Your Home for Wildfires

Surfside’s Tree, Brush, Vegetation and Noxious Weeds Committee

Surfside properties are particularly susceptible to wildfires: dune grass, gorse, Scotch broom, spruce or shore pine trees readily ignite during dry summer months. Washington’s Department of Natural Resources recommends creating a “defensible space” to protect property from wildfires.

WHAT IS DEFENSIBLE SPACE?

Defensible space is the area between a house and oncoming wildfire where vegetation has been modified to reduce the wildfire threat and provide opportunity for effective firefighting. A defensible space can simply be a properly maintained backyard.



Surfside Dune Grass and Shore Pine Fires 2016



WHAT IS THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN VEGETATION AND WILDFIRE THREAT?

Many people do not view plants growing on their property as a threat. All vegetation, including grass, native or ornamental plants, is potential wildfire fuel. Properly maintained vegetation can slow a wildfire, shortened the length of flames, and reduce heat, all of which defend the home against oncoming wildfire.

<p>HOW DO I CHANGE THE VEGETATION ON MY PROPERTY TO REDUCE THE WILDFIRE THREAT?</p> <p>The objective of defensible space is to reduce the wildfire threat to a home by changing the characteristics of the adjacent vegetation. Defensible space practices include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • increasing the moisture content of vegetation. • decreasing the amount of flammable vegetation. • shortening plant height. • altering the arrangement of plants. <p>This is accomplished through the “Three R’s of Defensible Space.” The article “Creating An Effective Defensible Space” provides detailed information about changing vegetation characteristics for defensible space.</p>	<h2>THE THREE R’S OF DEFENSIBLE SPACE</h2>
<p>Removal</p>	<p>This technique involves the elimination of entire plants, particularly trees and shrubs, from the site. Examples of removal are cutting down a dead tree or cutting out a flammable shrub.</p>
<p>Reduction</p>	<p>The removal of plant parts, such as branches or leaves, constitute reduction. Examples of reduction are pruning dead wood from a shrub, removing low tree branches, and mowing dried grass.</p>
<p>Replacement</p>	<p>Replacement is substituting less flammable plants for more hazardous vegetation. Removal of a dense stand of flammable shrubs and planting an irrigated, well maintained flower bed is an example of replacement.</p>

For a defensible space review of your yard, contact Pacific Co Fire District 1 at 360.665.4451 or see: https://www.dnr.wa.gov/publications/rp_fireprevent_living_with_wildfire.pdf