



May 26, 2023

By Zack Bertges

Summary: A large part of the month of May was focused on the Martin Parcel Fire Mitigation project. Lefthand mitigation crews successfully mitigated a significant amount of dead/dying brush and undergrowth, as well as removing snags, cutting down dangerous trees, and examining the parcel for other hazards. Additionally, a large portion of the work was dedicated to implementing the Bark Ranger program to assist with awareness in our town parks.

Code Compliance Official

Investigations: I investigated cases that included off-leash animals, unpermitted signage, unpermitted construction, STR license violations, and other nuisances.

Bark Rangers: I hosted a successful first meeting of Bark Ranger volunteers in coordination with Boulder County Animal Control Officer Blakelee Brownd. Six Rangers have signed up to assist with providing awareness back to the Town while they are walking their pets throughout the week. A second meeting will occur on Monday, June 5th to verify they can safely walk their pets throughout the area.

Citation Book: The Code Official Citation Book is now complete and ready to be used to provide citation enforcement regarding off-leash dogs, pet licenses, parking prohibited, and many other nuisances.

Meetings:

- Safety Committee: Discussed upcoming town staff meetings and SC goals
- Community Development: I led an impromptu Community Development meeting with Lyons Fire, our Permit Technician and Building Inspector
- Citations: I hosted a meeting with Lyons Front Desk staff and Town Clerk to discuss the future filing process of the code compliance citations.

Hazard Mitigation Program Coordinator

Martin Parcel Mitigation Project: A significant amount of work was required to prepare the Martin Parcel for the fire mitigation project, including making signage, placing signage, contacting neighbors to the parcel, and collaborating with other town staff members. The work was successful in preparing for the Lefthand Fire crew's arrival.

Lefthand Fire crews provided 30 hours of work with three people, removing 12 snags and making approximately 35 piles of brush to be burned in the winter. The total space covered of mitigated area ranged from 1 to 1.5-acres of the 10-acre parcel. The Martin Parcel is noticeably clearer of debris and dead wood pieces along the eastern and northern borders, and safer due to the removal of branches and trees that could fall and injure someone.

I asked Greg Lowell of the Ecological Advisory Board to provide a post-mitigation opinion of the Parcel, and this was his response:

"The Ecology Advisory Board was pleased with the fire mitigation results on the Martin parcel. Some EAB members had expressed concern that the parcel would be environmentally compromised by the work, but our fears were allayed with the final result. The Martin parcel had previously been identified as prime bird habitat, supporting a number of species in its combination of riparian habitat, brushy woodland and the number of dead trees conducive to cavity nesting birds. The fire mitigation work done there appears to have caused no damage to these habitats and, in fact, may have improved it for certain bird species by opening up some of the brushy perimeter." - Greg Lowell, Chair, EAB

Mighty Goat Project: Accepted Goat proposal to begin work on June 12th, 2023

Disaster Preparedness Plan: Continued to work on the Town's Disaster Preparedness Plan (aka Emergency Action Plan). Collected Survey results from April 2023 and implemented into DPP.

Evacuation Plan for Town Hall: Sent out Evacuation Plan for Town Hall and Public Works. Alex Painter will be reviewing the Town Hall Evacuation Plan at the upcoming staff meeting on June 2nd.

Meetings:

- Boulder County MAC Meeting – I was unable to attend the meeting for this month.

- PIO Discussion: I hosted a meeting with Lyons Staff, BCSO Sergeant Sears, and Lyons Fire Chiefs Pischke and Zick, to determine roles and responsibilities of the Public Information Officer, and ways that our agencies can better communicate with each other.

Other:

- A Project Date with Lyons High School was tentatively scheduled for June 19th (Juneteenth). Further review is being conducted to determine if the project day will be rescheduled.
- A memo will be created within the next three weeks that will outline current roles and responsibilities to the Town of Lyons as the Code Compliance Official and Hazard Mitigation Program Coordinator. The memo will include the following:
 - o Responsibilities to any specific closing date or deadline
 - o Relationships with outside agencies
 - o Recommendations on how to best support someone in these roles
 - o Status of current projects, including the Disaster Preparedness Plan
 - o Responsibilities to the Bark Rangers Program