

Fire Safety Committee

Minutes of the Third Meeting

Date: Sunday, June 14, 2026

Called to order: Approx. 5:00 p.m. at 76 The Way

Present: Erik and Haris (5:00 p.m.); Mindy (joined approx. 6:00 p.m.); Doug, Don, and Galen (joined approx. 7:30 p.m.)

Recorded by: Erik, Secretary of AgniWellCare

Next meeting: Wednesday, July 1, 2026, 5:00 p.m. at 76 The Way.



Minutes and all follow-up documents will be posted at

AgniWellCare.org/fire-safety

Email any comments or edits to: Erik, manager@agniwelcare.com

1. Purpose of the Committee

The Fire Safety Committee is a community wildfire-preparedness effort serving the Yogaville-area neighborhoods of Buckingham County. Its work centers on local fire prevention, awareness, neighbor-to-neighbor organization, and connecting residents to established county and state resources. The committee operates as a neighborhood initiative open to all area residents.

2. Committee Name

The committee discussed adopting a clear, neutral name for use on outreach materials and communications. Members weighed the practical and community-relations considerations of various options, including the desire for a name that is welcoming to all area residents — both those connected to the Ashram and those who are not — and that avoids any naming concerns associated with the broader community.

Decision: The committee agreed to adopt the name “Neighborhood Association for Fire Safety” (NAFS) for its outreach and communications.

3. Outreach Materials — Door Hanger

Haris, Erik and Mindy worked through a detailed revision of the door-hanger design, the committee’s first-phase outreach piece. The discussion focused on simplifying the layout, reducing text, and making the piece warmer and more approachable while preserving essential information. Points addressed included:

- **Tone and readability.** Soften and streamline the copy so the piece is welcoming and easy to read; remove repetitive phrasing and reduce the overall word count.
- **“Keep me” messaging.** Because the piece will be produced as a durable, laminated card, add brief language encouraging residents to keep it (e.g., place it on the refrigerator).
- **Action items.** Present three clear action items under a simple heading (“Three things you can do now”).

- **QR codes and links.** Confirm and clarify the QR codes: one linking to the county alert sign-up and one linking to the community fire-safety resources page. Shorten long web addresses using a URL shortener, and label the survey link clearly as a community survey.
- **Contact option.** Provide a phone contact for residents who need assistance or cannot access the online links. A dedicated Google Voice number (forwarded to a committee member) was discussed as the contact method so that residents have a person to reach.
- **Communication group reference.** A reference to the community communication group will be added once that group is established.

The committee agreed Erik would incorporate the agreed revisions and circulate an updated draft, and that a printed proof should be checked (including QR-code verification) before the full print run.

4. Neighborhood Zones and Captains

Galen provided a printed version of the draft neighborhood zone map. The committee reviewed the zone structure and discussed refining boundaries so that each captain is responsible for a manageable number of households (on the order of 10–15 homes), rather than zones of widely varying size. Members noted that larger zones may be subdivided as the effort grows, and that additional outlying areas can be added over time. The committee agreed to begin with a tighter initial focus on the immediate neighborhoods and expand as capacity allows.

The committee discussed the recruitment approach for captains and co-captains. Consistent with the prior meeting, names were noted only as possibilities; all prospective volunteers must be invited and must agree before any assignment is made. Members agreed to reach out to residents in their own areas. Prospective assignments discussed (subject to the individuals' agreement) included:

- Doug and Don as captains for the Unity Place zone, with an invitation to be extended to two neighboring residents to serve as co-captains.
- An invitation (from Galen?) to be extended to a resident and a co-captain to cover the Karuna Lane area.
- Erik serving as a captain for The Way.

The committee reaffirmed that [the captain role](#) should be kept intentionally simple, focused on neighborly outreach, contact-gathering, and welfare checks rather than emergency response or rescue functions.

5. Outreach Method

Members discussed how materials should be delivered to residents. The committee agreed on a respectful, low-pressure approach:

- Captains will first place **door hangers** at residences in their zone.
- Captains will then **follow up — by phone** where possible, or in a brief in-person visit — to introduce the effort, answer questions, and ask residents about their preferred contact method, evacuation needs, and any assistance they may require.
- The committee recognized that response rates to printed outreach are typically modest, and that the follow-up conversation and the neighborhood-captain network are the core of the effort's inclusiveness.

The committee will continue to use the community Facebook group to publicize the effort and reinforce the outreach, recognizing that residents typically need to encounter a message several times before acting.

6. Evacuation and Assistance Planning

The committee discussed how to identify and assist residents who may need help evacuating during an emergency. Members agreed that captains would help identify such residents and that a separate group of able-bodied volunteers may be organized to assist with evacuations as needed. The committee discussed the value of maintaining, for each zone, a record of households contacted, residents' preferred contact methods, and any noted assistance needs, so that information can be tracked and acted upon.

Members discussed the possibility of compiling a neighborhood contact list to support this work, including the use of publicly available community directory information, and agreed to explore the appropriate way to assemble such a list while respecting residents' privacy and any resident who declines to participate.

7. Water and Resource Preparedness

Galen reported on a personal preparedness measure of potential community benefit: arranging for a substantial on-site water reserve (on the order of several thousand gallons) at a central location, which could provide drinking and utility water to nearby residences in the event that local utilities are disrupted during a fire. Equipment for this measure was reported to be on order. The committee noted the value of identifying such resources as part of overall neighborhood preparedness.

8. County and State Coordination

Members reported on continued outreach to county and state fire and emergency-services contacts:

- **County.** Galen had a positive, approximately twenty-minute conversation with the county assistant fire chief, who confirmed that the county holds equipment-training sessions twice monthly that community members are welcome to attend, and indicated that county personnel are approachable and open to engaging with the community. The committee noted that the county is the most accessible partner and that the period after early August remains the target window for meeting with county fire leadership, in part due to the department's current equipment transition.
- **State.** Outreach continued toward the state emergency-services contact (Jason). Scheduling a visit has proven difficult, and an inquiry about sourcing surplus respirators was referred to the local fire department. The committee agreed to focus near-term coordination efforts on the county.

9. Advisory Input

Haris reported reaching out to a knowledgeable community member (George) to request a one-hour advisory visit once the effort is further along. The committee agreed it would be premature to schedule this visit until more groundwork is in place — specifically, until door hangers are distributed, captains are identified, and initial outreach is underway — and agreed to keep the timeline moving so the effort does not stall.

10. Decisions Reached

- **Decision:** Adopt the name “**Neighborhood Association for Fire Safety**” (NAFS) for outreach and communications.
- **Decision:** Finalize the simplified, durable (laminated) door hanger; verify QR codes on a printed proof before the full print run.
- **Decision:** Refine the zone map so captains cover a manageable number of households; begin with a tighter initial footprint and expand over time.
- **Decision:** Use a door-hanger-first approach followed by phone or brief in-person follow-up; keep the captain role simple and focused on outreach and welfare checks, not rescue.
- **Decision:** Establish a dedicated contact phone number (via Google Voice) for residents needing assistance.
- **Decision:** Focus near-term external coordination on the county; continue to target a meeting with county fire leadership after early August.
- **Decision:** Adjust the meeting cadence; set the next meeting for Sunday, June 28, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.

11. Action Items

- **Erik** — Incorporate the agreed revisions into the door hanger, circulate the updated draft, verify QR codes on a printed proof, and coordinate the initial print run.
- **Erik & Haris** — Set up the dedicated Google Voice contact number for resident assistance.
- **Erik** — Post to the community Facebook group to publicize the effort and recruit additional captains and volunteers, and update the website with the June 28 meeting date.
- **Erik** — Explore the appropriate way to compile a neighborhood contact list, respecting residents’ privacy.
- **Doug and Don** — Invite prospective co-captains for the Unity Place zone and begin outreach within that zone. If possible, recruit captains for other zones, as well.
- **Erik & Mindy** — Serve as captain for The Way and assist with outreach materials and additional zones as capacity allows.
- **Galen** — Continue pursuit of county fire leadership (after early August) and follow up on surplus-equipment leads.
- **All members** — Continue identifying and inviting prospective captains and co-captains within their own areas.

12. Status of Prior Action Items (from June 3)

- **Zone map and captain role description (Erik).** In progress — a printed [draft zone map](#) was reviewed; boundaries are being refined for manageable household counts, and the concise [captain role](#) description continues to be developed.
- **Coordinate printing of outreach materials (Erik / Haris).** In progress — door-hanger design is being finalized; printing to follow phone & QR-code verification.
- **County and state coordination (Galen).** Ongoing — positive county contact established; county targeted after early August. State visit remains difficult to schedule; surplus-respirator inquiry referred to the local fire department.
- **Reach out to prospective captains/co-captains (All members).** Underway — several prospective captains and co-captains identified for invitation.
- **Fire-equipment familiarization (Doug).** Carried forward.
- **Introductory email to Virginia DOF forester and Firewise risk assessment (Erik).** Carried forward.

Respectfully submitted by Erik Phillips-Nania, Secretary, AgniWellCare.

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Everbridge Alerts:

Mindy asked whether Everbridge gives alerts for fires:

Fire and evacuation notices come through the **'Emergency Alerts' category** (the one that's always on under Community Information), not the Weather list — that may be why you've only seen weather/flood ones so far.

We should confirm with the county that wildfire/evacuation orders are pushed through Everbridge, and report back.

Subscriptions

Checking or unchecking a subscription will also apply that change to any subgroups within that subscription.

Alert Subscriptions

☐ Community Information

☐ Send me the following (4)

- ☒ Emergency Alerts
- ☒ Major Road Closures
- ☐ Informational Updates
- ☒ Boil Notices

☒ Weather

- ☐ Wind (1)
- ☐ Flood (6)
- ☐ Winter (13)
- ☐ Non-Precipitation (7)
- ☐ Tropical (2)
- ☐ Other Events (1)
- ☐ Severe (2)

Weather



☐ Don't

09:00