

Neighborhood Association for Fire Safety (NAFS)

Minutes of the Seventh Meeting

Formerly convened as the Fire Safety Committee



Date: Wednesday, August 19, 2026

Called to order: Approx. 5:00 p.m. at 76 The Way, Buckingham County, Virginia

Present: Erik, Mindy, Haris, Galen, and Madhavan. Doug joined by video.

Notes: Erik, Secretary & Manager of AgniWellCare

Next meeting: Wednesday, September 2, 2026, 5:00 p.m. at 76 The Way

Learn more: agniwellcare.org/fire-safety

Comments or edits: manager@agniwellcare.org

Hello neighbors!

These notes are shared openly so that everyone in our community, whether or not you were able to attend, can follow along and take part in the work ahead. Nothing here is a final decision; it is a record of what we discussed and the next steps we identified together. Where names of prospective captains appear, they are noted as possibilities only: every volunteer is invited and must agree before any role is assigned.

This was a working meeting, and attendance was light. The association used the time well, settling most of the practical machinery that the last two meetings have been pointing toward: how a captain will actually capture what a neighbor tells them at the door, where that information will live and who may see it, who will finish the zone map, and what exactly the association is asking of the Ashram.

As with the August 5 minutes, the Secretary has verified the substantive points against public sources and has set out in Appendix A every item that could not be confirmed or that conflicts with something already in our record.

1. Opening and Agenda

The group opened with three rounds of Om.

Doug joined by video from home,. The arrangement worked without difficulty, and members should know that any member who cannot attend in person may ask the Secretary for a video link rather than miss a meeting.

Members set the working **agenda**: outstanding corrections to the August minutes and the process for handling them; the shared household roster and how captains will capture information at the door; captains, zones, and coverage; the zone map; the status of the Firewise grant application; the revised dry-hydrant request to the Ashram; digitizing the all-hazards education material; and an orientation for a member attending for the first time.

2. Welcome, and What the Association Is For

A resident of Karuna Lane attended for the first time, having been invited by Haris, and has offered to work alongside the captain for that street. He is welcomed warmly. Members took the time to give him a full orientation, and the substance of that recap is recorded here because it is a short and accurate statement of **what this association is**:

- Our area is divided into five or six **zones**, drawn along streets.
- Each zone has a **captain and a co-captain**. Two people, not one, because captains travel and get sick, and because a network with a single point of failure is not a network.
- Each zone builds a list of the **households** in it: who lives in each house, the address, how to reach them, and whether anyone there would need help in an emergency. We are most concerned about neighbors who are homebound, who do not use a mobile phone, or who would otherwise not learn that something was happening.
- A community-wide fire captain would sit above the zone captains and hold a **group text** with all of them. That person has not yet been identified, and the committee records it as an open question.
- **If a hazard** were approaching, the alert would move from the county, to that community-wide captain, to the zone captains, and then **from the zone captains to their neighbors by text, by phone, or on foot**.

- Where residents would be asked to go in an evacuation, if it ever came to that, would be told to us by the county. It might be higher ground, it might be an Ashram property, it might be out of the area entirely. That decision is not ours to make.

The purpose is preparedness and alertness. As the committee has recorded before, and as our advisory guest confirmed on August 5, nothing in the captain role involves entering a burning structure or attempting a rescue. The way this association saves anyone is by getting people ready and putting information into their hands before it is needed.

Members also walked the new member through the [county alert system](#), which is the first of the three things every household is asked to do. Alerts can be received as a text message, a phone call, or an email, and the system covers severe weather, flooding, fire, and evacuation notices. The committee noted a useful point of practice: every captain should register personally before knocking on doors, because it is much easier to explain a sign-up you have completed yourself.

Technology, and who can serve

The new member does not use a mobile phone. One view, put plainly, was that **the captain role is fundamentally an outreach and alert-relay role**, and that relaying an emergency message to a dozen households effectively requires a phone. The other view, put equally plainly, was that there are a great many valuable roles in this effort that require no device at all, and that **local knowledge and willingness to knock on a door are scarcer than technology**.

Both are correct, and the committee resolved the case in front of it accordingly. The new member will work alongside the captain for Karuna Lane, using a printed form on a clipboard, and the alert relay for that zone will run through the captain. The settled position is this: no one who wants to help should be turned away for want of a device, and no zone should depend for its alert relay on a household that cannot receive a text.

3. The Minutes as the Association's Record

A member had reviewed the August 5 minutes closely, entered corrections in the document, and raised several points from the floor. The Secretary had accepted some of those edits and left comments on others, and the meeting agreed that the association needs a settled way of closing that loop rather than leaving corrections suspended in a comment thread.

The principle behind the request was stated well and the committee adopts it without qualification: these minutes are the association's institutional memory. Members will not remember in October what was decided in August, and neither will anyone who joins us later. If the record is going to be relied on, it has to be accurate, and prompt circulation matters because people can only correct what they still remember.

Decision: The Secretary circulates and posts the minutes within a few days of each meeting. Members comment directly in the posted document. The Secretary either accepts an edit or replies in the comment, and any correction not resolved by the following meeting is carried into that meeting's verification appendix rather than being quietly dropped. Corrections adopted are listed at the head of the next set of minutes.

Corrections adopted at this meeting

- **The Way.** The August 5 minutes recorded that the captain for Liberty Lane would also fold in The Way. That was not what the meeting decided. The Way is covered by the Secretary. Liberty Lane, together with the small clusters between Liberty Lane and The Way that do not fall naturally into another zone, is covered by Siva Fiske.
- **Two members named Siva.** The record has confused Siva Fiske, who is a zone captain, with Siva Moore, who works on the Ashram grounds and operates the engine kept there. These minutes and all future minutes will use both names in full.
- **Zone name.** The northern zone has appeared in our documents under several names. It is discussed at section 4 below and the spelling of the road name is flagged in Appendix A.
- **An action item misassigned.** The August 5 action list read “Haris & Karuna M. — Begin contact-first outreach on Karuna Lane.” It should have read the northern zone (Riverbend North). Karuna Lane is a separate zone with its own captain. The posted August minutes have been corrected.

The door hanger and the three actions

A member noted possible inconsistency about actions listed in the minutes are not the actions printed on the door hangers. The clarification given was that the items in the minutes were the next round of priorities rather than this one – educational outreach priorities identified by George Stish. See, §6. *The Next Round of Resident Education* ([NAFS Minutes](#), p.11)

Decision: Round one is what the door hanger says. Register for the county emergency alerts; join the neighbor network and complete the short survey; pack a go-bag in case of evacuation. Round two, which captains will carry on a second visit, includes clearing the first five feet around the house, making the house number visible from the road, safe burning practice, removal of leaf litter and felled wood, household preparedness for a multi-day outage, and fire extinguishers in the home. This is a change from the August 5 minutes and is noted as such in Appendix A, item 4.

Members observed that the **five-foot clearance and the visible house number** remain the two highest-value physical actions any household can take, and that captains should raise them in conversation even though they are not printed on the hanger.

4. Captains, Zones, and Coverage

Members worked through the coverage list together and confirmed it. Names are recorded as possibilities only unless the person has agreed.

Zone	Captain	Co-captain / assisting	Status
Unity Place	Doug	Don	Outreach to begin as Don's recovery permits; may open by email or text. The continued availability of a third member who had offered to help is to be confirmed.
The northern zone: Horsley Road and Travelers Rest, from the top of Route 604	Haris	Karuna M.	Both ready to begin. They will meet shortly to divide the road. Aiming to complete within three weeks.
Karuna Lane	Surya	Madhavan	Assisting with a printed form; alert relay for the zone runs through the captain.
The Way	Erik	—	Covered by the Secretary.

Zone	Captain	Co-captain / assisting	Status
Liberty Lane, with the nearby clusters toward The Way	Siva Fiske	—	Small: two occupied houses and several vacant or for-sale properties.
Rama	Captain needed	—	Uncovered. A member had spoken about taking it on and about approaching another resident; neither is confirmed.
The Ashram: monastery, resident sannyasins, and volunteers	—	Mindy, as liaison	Its own zone, handled internally by the Ashram. Mindy is our liaison to Jiva and the Board of Trustees, not a captain for those households.
Woodbridge, near the water treatment plant	Alejandro (invited)	—	Two houses; most sensibly folded into an adjacent zone. He has the one-page role description and asked for time to decide.

One further volunteer has agreed to serve and has been added to the list, though he has not yet attended a meeting. The committee agreed he should be sent the one-page captain role description rather than reminded before every meeting; the point of a volunteer network is not to burden the people in it. His zone is to be confirmed.

A resident with wide acquaintance in the community and considerable energy was named as a strong candidate for a captaincy, and a member will approach him.

Coverage deliberately deferred

- **The Warminster Church Road cluster.** Several households sit along this road, some of them hosting guests regularly. A member proposed that once the core zones are running, these neighbors be invited to join, most likely as their own zone with a captain from among them, since the road is a fair distance from any existing zone. The committee agreed not to take it on now and recorded it so that it is not forgotten.
- **Outlying households.** Some members live too far out for door-to-door coverage to be realistic. Rather than stretch a captain across miles of dirt road, the committee favored a second tier for these households: a phone

check-in from someone who knows them, rather than a visit. To be designed after round one.

- **The standing position holds.** Not every zone must be delineated before outreach begins. Captains who are ready may begin now.

A member observed, from long acquaintance, that several of the longtime Buckingham households at the top of Route 604 are thoroughly prepared and self-sufficient and are unlikely to need anything from this association. They will receive a door hanger and an offer of help all the same. No household inside a zone will be skipped on an assumption about what it needs. The same member noted the converse, which is the more important half: our own community is aging, and that is where the real vulnerability sits.

5. The Zone Map

The map was the clearest single request of the evening, and it came with a clear reason. Members said, in substance, that they need to see it: which zone is which, who is covering it, and where the gaps are. A list in a document does not do that work.

- **The draft map is out of date.** The zone sketch prepared five meetings ago has been overtaken. Since then the association has moved away from large areas toward zones drawn along individual streets.
- **We have a proper base map.** Galen obtained a parcel and address map from the county, and the county's GIS parcel viewer is publicly available. That is the base we will work from.
- **What is wanted.** One letter-size sheet, legible without a screen, showing the zone boundaries, the zone names, and the captain and co-captain for each, with a phone number.
- **Where we are.** The Secretary judges that roughly eighty percent of the information is in hand, and will produce a working version for the next meeting precisely so that the remaining twenty percent becomes visible. An incomplete map that shows its own holes is useful right now.

Labeling the map: collaboration with Hanuman

Hanuman has offered in a previous meeting to sit down with the Secretary and put resident names to addresses across the community. She has the knowledge the association most lacks: which houses are occupied full time, which are second homes, which are occupied only occasionally, and which have changed

hands. She is not expected to attend meetings, and the committee is glad to have her help on exactly the terms she prefers.

The Secretary will follow up and arrange an afternoon. The output of that session feeds both the map and the household roster workbook, and it is the piece of work that will let captains see, before knocking, how many doors they actually have.

Privacy. The labeled map is a working document for captains. The version posted at agniwelcare.org/fire-safety will show zone boundaries and captains' first names only. No resident names, addresses, or telephone numbers will be published.

6. The Shared Household Roster

The August 5 decision to build a single shared workbook, one tab per zone, held. This meeting worked out the detail.

Doug has built the template and filled in Unity Place. The Secretary returned a [revised template with additional fields](#). The agreed fields, grouped by when a captain would ask for them, are:

First contact

- Resident name; address; telephone; email.
- Preferred way to be reached in an emergency.
- An emergency contact and their number. This was added at the meeting and is distinct from the preferred contact method: if a resident falls and is hurt while a captain is helping them, the captain needs to know who to call.
- Everyone living in the household, by name, adults and children.
- Animals in the household, type and name.
- Whether the resident would need assistance evacuating, and if so who would be assigned to help.
- Whether the resident is registered for the county emergency alerts.
- Whether the five-foot clearance around the house has been discussed.

For the Captain to note; doesn't need to be talked about

- Whether the house number is visible from the road.

- Any fire-truck access concerns: driveway width, overhead clearance, turnaround.
- Captain's notes.

Later rounds

- Owner or renter.
- Whether there is a water source on the property, and the owner's express permission to list it with the responding fire departments.

What was and was not proposed at the meeting, since the discussion could easily be read the wrong way afterward: the list read aloud was the full set of columns the workbook can hold, not a script for a first visit. Nobody suggested asking a neighbor all of it in one conversation. The first-outreach set above is deliberately narrow.

The caution a member raised was about the form rather than about the fields. A captain standing on somebody's step should not have to work out which questions belong to this round and which to the next, and should not be scrolling sideways through twenty-six columns to find the right cell mid-conversation. The committee agreed the fields would be ordered by priority, the first-contact set visually separated, and the type large enough to read on a telephone. A one-page first-outreach form now exists and carries that instruction in its own layout: what is on the page is what you ask, and everything else is deliberately not on the page.

Secretary Notes After the Meeting

The Secretary proposes the following additions for the committee's confirmation, drawn from what the Department of Forestry told us in June and what our advisory guest told us on August 5. They are recorded as a proposal, not as a decision, and most of them belong with the second round of resident education rather than with the roster:

- **Multi-day outage readiness:** days of food and stored water on hand, thirty days of medication, documents and a copy of the insurance policy kept where they can be taken, a photo or video inventory, a go-bag, and backup power. Note that a well pump does not run without power, which makes stored water the binding constraint for most households here.

- **Around the house:** felled wood left on the ground, mulch against the foundation, ladder fuels within thirty feet, firewood pile location, a wood stove or chimney and when it was last cleaned, propane or fuel storage, working **fire extinguishers, smoke alarms**, and whether the address sign is reflective and legible at night. The address-sign answer is a count the association can act on, since signage is an eligible item under the mitigation grant.
- **Access in detail:** driveway width and surface, turnaround, overhead clearance, culverts or small bridges an engine of ten to twenty tons would have to cross, and any locked gate.
- **Ignition practice:** whether the household burns brush or fields and whether they call the department first, whether they burn trash, awareness of the 4 p.m. burning law, and fire-pit habits. Our guest was clear that inattention, not weather, is what starts fires here.
- **Community capacity:** any licensed amateur radio operator in the household, equipment a neighbor would be willing to lend or operate, a trash pump for households with a pool, and willingness to take in a neighbor.
- When the household is actually here, year-round or seasonally, which is what makes a captain calendar possible.

Where it lives and who may see it

- On the AgniWellCare account, in the fire-safety Drive folder alongside the other committee documents, and not on any individual's personal account. This reaffirms the August 5 reasoning: circumstances change and people move, and the community should not depend on a document owned by one person.
- By invitation, not by link. The committee considered open link-sharing for convenience and declined it. The workbook holds **confidential contact information** about neighbors who have not consented to wider circulation. Captains hold edit access; other members hold view or comment access; the public does not have access.
- One tab per zone, each copied from a common template tab so that the columns stay comparable across zones.

- Never published. Residents who decline to take part are recorded as having declined and are not contacted further. No private water source is listed without the owner's permission.

Doug sent the Secretary the workbook; the Secretary will place it in the AgniWellCare fire-safety folder and set the permissions by role.

The sequencing question, resolved

Members asked whether captains should wait for the workbook before going out, or go out first. The answer the committee arrived at is that it does not matter. What matters is that every captain has a capture form in hand before they start, and that whatever they collect eventually lands in the shared workbook where the rest of the network can reach it. Several captains already know most of their neighbors' names, numbers, and circumstances; that knowledge is only useful to this association once it is written down somewhere other people can find it.

7. How Captains Will Capture Information: Google Forms and Paper

This was the most productive practical discussion of the evening and produced a workable answer.

The problem

A spreadsheet with twenty columns is a poor instrument at somebody's front door. On a telephone it is worse: the captain has to scroll sideways to find the right cell, in the middle of a conversation with a neighbor. Members were candid that nobody wants to work that way, and that a tool people avoid is not a tool.

The proposal: a Google Form, one per zone

Doug proposed a Google Form, and the committee adopted it. The reasoning:

- A form presents the same fields one at a time down a single page instead of side by side across a grid. It works on a telephone at the door or on a computer at home afterward.
- A Google Form writes each submission automatically into its own linked spreadsheet. Nobody types into a grid at any point.

- The captain fills out one form per household, submits it, and moves to the next house. The tallying happens by itself.
- Each zone gets its own copy of the form, duplicated from a single master so that the questions and their order are identical everywhere, and each copy linked to its own sheet. Responses can then be copied into the correct tab of the master workbook without disentangling which zone a row belongs to.

A member with experience of these tools noted the caution that goes with them: the approach is user-friendly for people who already understand how forms, sheets, and links connect, and opaque for people who do not. The design answer is that no captain needs to understand the plumbing. A captain needs a link on their telephone or a sheet of paper on a clipboard, and nothing else.

Two forms, two audiences, kept separate

The committee distinguished the two instruments so they are not confused later:

- **The resident survey.** Short, filled in by the resident, reached by the QR code and the short link printed on the door hanger. This is currently built in Jotform and works. It is one of several ways a neighbor can join the network.
- **The captain intake form.** Longer, filled in by the captain, one submission per household, feeding the zone sheet and then the master workbook.

The Secretary raised the possibility of pointing the door hanger's QR code at the same system, and the committee did not decide to merge them. They serve different audiences and ask different questions. They stay separate for now.

Paper, which is not a fallback but a first-class option

- A printed one-page form on a clipboard remains the primary tool for any captain who prefers it, and the backstop for everyone when there is no signal, no battery, or no inclination.
- Completed paper forms are transcribed afterward into the form or the workbook. The Secretary will do that transcription or arrange for it. No captain should be expected to learn a new piece of software in order to serve this community.

- Photographing a handwritten sheet and having software convert it was raised and works, but the committee noted honestly that it depends on one person's ability and should not be built into a workflow that others must run. Design for paper and a person typing.
- On printing the form itself: the meeting concluded that a Google Form cannot be printed for use on paper. That is partly right and is corrected at Appendix A, item 5. The association will produce a purpose-built one-page paper form regardless, because a printed Google Form is not a good paper form.

Decision: Doug and the Secretary will build a captain intake form, duplicated per zone, each writing to its own sheet; the Secretary will produce a matching printable one-page paper version; both feed the single master workbook. The Secretary will get a form into every captain's hands within a day or two of this meeting.

Draft Forms:

[First Outreach Form](#)

[Second Outreach Form](#)

8. The Ashram's Engine, and the Question of Apparatus

The Secretary invited Siva Moore to this meeting but did so only the same morning, deliberately, so that he would have an easy decline. He was at work on the ponds at the LOTUS and could not attend. He will be invited with proper notice for September 2. He operates the engine kept on Ashram property and is the person most likely to be able to settle its condition.

The record now holds two accounts that do not sit easily together. Our advisory guest on August 5 was direct that the engine is not close to current standard and cannot be used to fight fires. Separately, members have heard that it was used on perhaps three occasions last season. Members observed that both may be true at once, and that the phrase “not up to date” appears to be a statement about equipment and current code rather than about whether the machine will pump water. The committee is not in a position to resolve this and will not record either version as fact. See Appendix A, item 1.

Members also revisited the history of a county engine having been housed here for a period of years, an arrangement that ended when the bay was no longer made available. The dates were recalled differently at this meeting than

on August 5, and both recollections are recorded in Appendix A, item 2. What matters going forward is the possibility, not the history: if that relationship could be repaired, a working engine stationed here would materially change response times. The committee agreed this question can be carried in the same conversation the association already needs to have with Glenmore and Toga about evaluating our water sources and sponsoring a dry hydrant.

For context recorded for newer members: our neighborhoods sit at the outer edge of two companies and roughly equidistant from three. Glenmore is nearest and can typically be on scene about fifteen minutes after its crew leaves the station.

9. The Firewise Grant Application

The application is being made by AgniWellCare as applicant and fiscal agent for this association. The Secretary reported that he had deliberately deferred the work until two prerequisites were in place: formal authorization from the AgniWellCare board, which was given at its most recent meeting, and the federal entity registration required of any applicant. He is working through the application itself and expects to submit within a few weeks.

What the grant will and will not pay for, as the association currently understands it:

- **Education is eligible, but narrowly.** Non-promotional wildland-urban interface education and safety materials used within the community. In practice this means printed and produced materials for residents. It does not mean staffing, and it does not mean general capacity-building.
- **Most of the program is for physical work.** Mechanical fuel reduction, fire breaks, defensible space, water source improvements, and road and residence signage. Signage is what the Department of Forestry specifically recommended for us in June.
- **Dry hydrants are funded separately.** See section 10 and Appendix C of the August 5 minutes.

This is consistent with the decision taken on August 5 to direct the mitigation grant toward education, program-building, roadside fuel reduction, and signage rather than toward equipment.

10. The Dry Hydrant at Lotus Lake, and the Revised Letter to the Ashram

Addendum I, the association's request to the Ashram concerning a dry hydrant at Lotus Lake, was drafted in July and has not been sent. Members were glad it had not been, because what we learned on August 5 changes the request substantially and simplifies it.

The Virginia Dry Fire Hydrant Grant Program, run jointly by the Department of Fire Programs and the Department of Forestry, covers the full cost of installing a new dry hydrant or repairing an existing one, with no match required. The application comes from a fire department rather than from a community group or a landowner. The consequence for us is that the Ashram is not being asked to fund anything. It is being asked for permission, access for installation, and access for periodic inspection.

Action: The Secretary will revise Addendum I to reflect the corrected pathway, removing the cost section, and will send it to Mindy. Mindy will carry the revised request to Jiva and the Board of Trustees, and asked to be told when it is ready. She will follow up. *(See Appendix E at the end.)*

What a dry hydrant is

This explanation was given at the meeting for a member hearing it for the first time, and the committee records it because it will be needed again in resident materials:

- A dry hydrant is not connected to a water system and does not require electricity. It is a passive pipe.
- One end sits below the surface of the lake behind a strainer. The other end comes up at a point a fire truck can reach, fitted with a standard fire-department connection.
- The engine's own pump, driven off the truck's diesel engine, draws water up through it. Nothing else moves.
- It draws clean water. When crews drop a line directly into a shallow lake, the hose picks up mud, and mud fouls the pump. That is what happened the last time Lotus Lake was used for a fire.
- A pumper can lift water about twenty feet vertically and no further. This is a hard physical limit, which is why where a source can be reached matters as much as how much water is in it.
- The Department of Forestry identified Lotus Lake as a good site for one during the June site visit, and our August guest called the improvement a real one without qualification.

The remaining step is a sponsoring department. Glenmore or Toga must be willing to submit Form 4.30 to the Department of Forestry ahead of the March 31, 2027 deadline. That approach remains unassigned and is the association's most important outstanding piece of outreach.

11. All-Hazards Education Material

The community disaster education binder received from Dhyani has not yet been digitized. The Secretary reported that before scanning a dated document he intends to look for a current published version online, which he suspects is the better route, and that the binder remains with him and will be returned promptly.

The material is an all-hazards treatment in which fire is one hazard among several. That framing matches what the association heard on August 5, when our guest ranked **hurricanes and ice storms above wildfire as the realistic threat** here, and observed that storm disruption is more likely than fire to affect residents' day-to-day lives.

A member reported the storm that came through Charlottesville the previous weekend and a large tree brought down against a structure on Ashram property, since cut and removed, with no damage reported. Members noted that tornado activity in Virginia appears to be increasing and that the community has not historically planned for it. This strengthens the case, already recorded on August 5, for building round two of resident education around a multi-day outage rather than around fire alone.

Secretary's note. The Secretary has since checked the claim that tornado activity in Virginia is increasing, and the picture is mixed enough that **the association should not repeat it in resident materials.** The raw count has indeed risen, from an average of roughly 17.7 tornadoes a year across 1991 to 2015 to something closer to twenty-four a year over the last decade, and every county in the Commonwealth has recorded at least one. But NOAA's own review of the science finds that **removing the weakest category from the record nearly eliminates the trend, that the rise coincides with the rollout of the Doppler radar network in the 1990s, and that no statistically significant trend exists** over the most recent thirty years. Virginia is largely counting more of the tornadoes it was already getting. It should also be said plainly that a tree brought

down in a summer thunderstorm is evidence of a thunderstorm and a tree, and bears on this question not at all.

What is not in doubt is more useful to us than the trend would have been. Virginia's tornado risk is concentrated in the tropical season: the state's largest outbreak on record came from the remnants of **Hurricane Ivan in 2004, which produced thirty-eight tornadoes in a single day**, and fewer than one in five tornadoes here reaches EF2 or stronger. If one ever reaches these roads it will most likely arrive **attached to a hurricane**, which is precisely the hazard our August guest ranked first when asked what he would actually plan for. **And at the household level the preparation does not change** with the shape of the wind. A tornado, a derecho, a hurricane, and an ice storm all end the same way here, with roads blocked and the power out for days. Round two will therefore cover wind and falling trees under the heading of a multi-day outage, and will not carry a separate tornado item, which would imply a hazard ranking the evidence does not support.

12. Communications and Materials

Decision: Association email goes out with recipients visible in the CC field rather than BCC. Members noted that BCC is often the courteous choice for a large general mailing, and that this is different: a working group of a dozen people benefits from seeing who was included, catching an omission before someone is left out of a decision, and being able to reply to everyone.

- **Meeting notices.** A reminder several days ahead of each meeting, in addition to the minutes and the website posting. Standing practice since August 5.
- **The website.** All minutes, addenda, and appendices are posted at agniwellcare.org/fire-safety, together with the sign-up links, the resident survey, the draft map, and the earlier resource documents. The two sets of notes members have found most practical are the June visit from the Department of Forestry and the August 5 advisory visit. Minutes are posted with comments open, and members are asked to comment there rather than by separate email so that corrections stay attached to the text they correct.

- **Door hangers.** Several hundred have been printed and are available; captains should take a stack. The standing rule holds: hand them to the resident or leave them on the door. Nothing goes in a mailbox.
- **Department of Forestry flyers.** A supply is available for captains' own reading, at 76 The Way (Agni Shala). The most common cause of fire here is ordinary carelessness, and the flyers are a useful reminder to have in hand during a drought.

13. Timeline

- First-round outreach substantially complete by the end of August. Reaffirmed as an aspiration rather than a deadline, since it depends on health, travel, and how residents respond.
- The northern zone within three weeks, ahead of the autumn holidays.
- Capture forms in every captain's hands within a day or two of this meeting.
- A working labeled zone map for the September 2 meeting.

14. Decisions Reached

1. Minutes are circulated and posted within a few days; members comment in the document; the Secretary accepts or replies; unresolved corrections go to the verification appendix rather than being dropped.
2. Round one of resident education is what the door hanger says: register for county alerts, join the neighbor network and complete the survey, pack a go-bag. The five-foot clearance and the visible house number move to round two.
3. Build a captain intake form, duplicated per zone, each writing to its own linked sheet, feeding the single master workbook.
4. Produce a printable one-page paper capture form as a first-class alternative, with transcription handled centrally.
5. Keep the resident survey and the captain intake form separate; they serve different audiences.
6. Order the roster fields by priority and visually separate the first-contact set; add an emergency contact field.
7. Host the workbook on the AgniWellCare account in the fire-safety Drive folder, by invitation rather than open link, with edit access for captains.

8. Produce a working zone map on the county base for the next meeting, showing zones, captains, and co-captains on one letter-size sheet; publish only zones and captains' first names.
9. Invite Siva Moore to the next meeting with proper notice, to settle the condition of the engine on Ashram property.
10. Revise Addendum I to ask the Ashram for permission and access rather than funding, and route it through Mindy to Jiva and the Board of Trustees.
11. Use CC rather than BCC for association email.
12. Defer the Warminster Church Road cluster and the outlying households to a second phase, recorded so that neither is forgotten.
13. Set the next meeting for Wednesday, September 2, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. at 76 The Way.

15. Action Items

- **Erik.** Send every captain a capture form within a day or two. Build the per-zone intake forms with Doug and the printable paper version. Place the roster workbook in the AgniWellCare fire-safety Drive folder and set role-based permissions. Produce the working zone map on the county base. Arrange the labeling session with Hanuman. Revise Addendum I and send it to Mindy. Complete and submit the Firewise application. Correct and repost the August 5 minutes. Invite Siva Moore for September 2. Check for a current published version of the all-hazards education material before digitizing the binder, and return the binder.
- **Doug.** Build the per-zone forms with Erik and set each to write to its own sheet.
- **Mindy.** Continue as liaison to the Ashram Board of Trustees; carry the revised dry-hydrant request (*Appendix E*); follow up.
- **Haris.** Continue captain recruitment. Confirm whether a member who had offered to take on a zone remains available. Begin outreach on the northern zone with Karuna M., after the two divide the road.
- **Haris & Karuna M.** Meet to divide Horsley Road and Travelers Rest between them.
- **Doug & Don.** Begin Unity Place outreach as recovery permits; consider opening by email or text.

- **Surya & Madhavan.** Begin Karuna Lane using printed forms; confirm the alert relay arrangement for the zone.
- **Siva Fiske.** Begin Liberty Lane. Carried forward from August 5: arrange a walk-through inspection of the three tanks on the record, and the siren.
- **Alejandro.** Review the captain role description and advise whether he wishes to serve.
- **Unassigned, and needed.** Approach Glenmore and Toga about evaluating our water sources, sponsoring a dry-hydrant application for Lotus Lake, and whether a company might again house apparatus here. A volunteer is sought.
- **All members.** Send remaining questions for our August guest to the Secretary for a single consolidated message. Bring the names of any licensed amateur radio operators. Identify water sources in your zone and obtain the owner's permission before listing any of them.

16. Status of Prior Action Items (from August 5)

- **Shared household roster workbook (Doug & Erik).** In progress. Template built and Unity Place filled in; fields agreed and expanded at this meeting; hosting and permissions decided. Not yet circulated.
- **Revise the dry-hydrant proposal, Addendum I (Erik).** In progress. Corrected pathway confirmed; revision to be sent to Mindy.
- **Captain calendar (Erik).** Not started. Carried forward. It becomes straightforward once the zone map is labeled.
- **Post minutes and appendices to the fire-safety page (Erik).** Complete. To be reposted with the corrections adopted at this meeting.
- **Consolidated follow-up questions to our August guest (Erik).** Carried forward. Members were reminded to send them in.
- **Federal registration and board authorization for the grant (Erik).** Complete. Application in preparation.
- **Approach Glenmore and Toga on water sources and dry-hydrant sponsorship.** Not started and still unassigned. Carried forward as a priority.

- **Inspection of the three tanks and the siren (Siva Fiske).** No report. Carried forward.
- **Captain recruitment (Haris).** Ongoing. One further volunteer has agreed; one zone remains uncovered; one prospective member is considering.
- **Unity Place household list (Doug).** In progress; now feeding directly into the shared workbook.
- **Buckingham County Firefighters Association contact and a firm training date (Don).** Carried forward.
- **Everbridge street-level targeting (county).** Carried forward. Still to be confirmed with the county.
- **Alejandro's decision on a captain role.** Carried forward.

Three things every household can do now

1. Sign up for the county's emergency alerts, so you receive hazard and evacuation notices by text, phone, or email.
2. Join the neighbor network, so your captain knows how to reach you and whether anyone in your household would need help.
3. Pack a go-bag: medication, water, snacks, cash, a phone charger, glasses, sturdy shoes, and copies of your important documents.

And two more, which your captain will raise with you on a second visit and which are the highest-value physical things you can do: clear leaves and debris from the first five feet around your home, including gutters and roof, and make sure your house number is clearly visible from the road so responders can find you at night.

Join Us

Everyone is welcome at our next meeting: Wednesday, September 2, 2026, at 5:00 p.m., at 76 The Way. If you cannot attend in person, ask the Secretary for a video link. To get involved, sign up, or share a concern about a neighbor who may need evacuation assistance, please visit agniwelcare.org/fire-safety.

In service,

Erik Phillips-Nania

Secretary, AgniWellCare

for the Neighborhood Association for Fire Safety (NAFS)

Om shanti

Appendix A — Verification Notes and Open Items

Prepared by the Secretary after the meeting. Where a statement made in the meeting could not be confirmed, or conflicts with something already in our record, it is set out here rather than recorded as fact in the body of the minutes. Members who can close any of these items are asked to write.

1. The engine on Ashram property. Two accounts stand unreconciled. Our August guest, a retired firefighter of roughly thirty years, said the engine is not close to current standard and cannot be used to fight fires. Members have separately heard that it was used on perhaps three occasions last season. These are not necessarily in conflict, since a machine can pump water without meeting current standards, and “not up to date” may describe equipment and code rather than mechanical function. Neither account is recorded as fact. The operator has been invited to the September 2 meeting and is the person best placed to settle it.
2. Dates of the former apparatus arrangement. The August 5 minutes record that the Yogaville fire department was disbanded in the late 1990s and that a Toga engine was housed at the Ashram for roughly four years afterward. At this meeting the arrangement was recalled as having ended about ten years ago. Both are recollections. Nothing here should be read as a finding, and no one should approach any department on the strength of either date.
3. Speaker attribution. These minutes were prepared from a recording of a room with overlapping conversation and several members speaking at once. Where an undertaking is attributed to a named member, that attribution is the Secretary's best reading of the recording. Any member who finds an action assigned to them in error is asked to write, and it will be corrected in the next issue rather than argued about.
4. Round one and round two: a change from the August minutes. The August 5 minutes recorded round one as registering for alerts, clearing the first five feet, and making the house number visible. The door hanger, now printed in the hundreds, lists alerts, joining the neighbor network, and packing a go-bag. This meeting resolved the conflict in favor of the printed piece. The change is noted plainly because it is a change: the five-foot clearance and the visible house number are physical mitigation and are arguably more valuable than a go-bag in this hazard environment. They have moved to round two, not been dropped, and captains are asked to raise them in conversation.

5. Printing a Google Form. The meeting concluded that a Google Form cannot be printed for use on paper. That is not quite right. A blank form can be printed from the editor's overflow menu, and third-party tools exist to lay one out more cleanly in a document. The practical objection stands, however: the printed output is paper-hungry and awkwardly spaced for a form of this length. The association will produce a purpose-built one-page paper form rather than print the Google Form. The meeting's conclusion was therefore wrong in mechanism and right in outcome.
6. The name of the northern zone. This zone has appeared in our documents as Horsley Road / Travelers Rest, as Riverbend North on the draft map, and was proposed at this meeting as “the 604 Extension” after the state route number. The rendering of the road name has also been inconsistent across sets of minutes. Before the name is fixed in the roster and on the map, the Secretary will confirm the official road names and the route designation against the county GIS parcel viewer. No one is attached to a particular name; we simply need one name used everywhere.
7. A volunteer who has agreed but not attended. A member reported that a further resident has agreed to serve as a captain. The report is recorded as reported. The spelling of his name and the zone he would cover are both to be confirmed before he appears on a published map or roster. He will be sent the role description.
8. Continued availability of a member. A member who had spoken about taking on the uncovered zone, and about approaching another resident to co-captain it, has had a death in the family and has not attended recently. The association's sympathies are with her. Her availability will be confirmed gently and at her convenience, and the zone is recorded as uncovered in the meantime. Nothing is expected of her.
9. Hanuman's offer. Her willingness to help label the map and roster was reported by a member rather than stated to the association directly. The Secretary will confirm it with her before the work is assumed in any timeline.
10. An error in the August 5 action list. It read “Haris & Karuna M. — Begin contact-first outreach on Karuna Lane.” Karuna Lane is a separate zone with its own captain and co-captain. The action belonged to the northern zone. The posted minutes will be corrected.
11. The community-wide fire captain. The alert chain described to new members depends on a person at the top of it holding a group text with the

zone captains. No such person has been identified. This is now the most significant structural gap in the design and should be on the agenda until it is filled.

12. Resident names. Substantial portions of this meeting consisted of members discussing, by name, neighbors who are not members of this association and have not been asked. Those names have been omitted deliberately. Where a cluster of households is referred to, it is described by road. This is a rule of practice going forward, not a one-time editorial choice.
 13. Everbridge street-level targeting. Carried forward from August 5 and still unconfirmed with the county: whether wildfire and evacuation notices push through the Emergency Alerts category, and whether targeting by street is available here.
-

Appendix B — The Captain's Toolkit: What Goes Where

Written for captains. Three instruments, each with one job.

1. The door hanger

Carried to the door, handed to the resident or hung on the door, never put in a mailbox. Carries the three round-one actions, a QR code and short link to the resident survey, and space for the captain to write their own name and telephone number. Write it in before you go; a hanger with a neighbor's name on it is a different object from a leaflet.

2. The captain intake form

Filled in by you, one submission per household, in whichever version suits you:

- A link on your telephone, filled in at the door or in the car afterward.
- The same link on your computer at home, if you are calling neighbors rather than visiting.
- A printed one-page form on a clipboard, transcribed centrally afterward. This is a full option, not a lesser one.

Each zone has its own copy of the form and its own results sheet, so nothing has to be sorted out afterward.

3. The shared workbook

One workbook, one tab per zone, held on the AgniWellCare account in the fire-safety Drive folder. Captains have edit access by invitation. Other members have view or comment access. It is never published, and residents' names, addresses, and telephone numbers do not appear on the website or leave the association.

Rules that apply at every door

- Ask before you record. Explain plainly why the information is being collected and who will see it: your captain network, so that someone can check on a neighbor or an animal if there is an emergency.
- A decline is a decline. Record it, and do not call again.
- Text or call first where you can, ask whether a visit would be welcome, and leave gracefully if it would not.
- No private pond, pool, or cistern goes on any list without the owner's express permission.

- Your obligation ends at introducing yourself, handing over the hanger with your number on it, and offering help. Nobody is required to persuade anyone.

Notes for building the forms

- Build one master form, then duplicate it per zone. Never edit a duplicate's questions, or the sheets stop lining up.
- Set each copy's response destination to a new spreadsheet at the time of duplication.
- Keep the required fields to the first-contact set only, so a captain is never blocked by a question a neighbor declined to answer.
- Add a field for the captain's name and one for the date, so any entry can be traced back to the person who took it.
- Test the form on a telephone before it goes out. If it is awkward on a phone, it will not be used.

Appendix C — The Zone Map: What a Finished One Contains

Recorded so that the work has a definition of done.

- **Base.** The county parcel and address map, with the county's public GIS viewer as the reference for road names, parcel lines, and address points.
- **Boundaries drawn along streets**, not around large areas. This is the change the association made after the first draft map and it should be carried through consistently.
- **For each zone:** the zone name, the captain, the co-captain, and a telephone number.
- **A household count per zone**, so that a captain can see the size of the task before agreeing to it and the association can see where a zone should be split.
- **Two versions.** A working version for captains, labeled with resident names against addresses, held with the roster and not published. A public version showing zones and captains' first names only, posted at agniwelcare.org/fire-safety.
- **Gaps shown as gaps.** An uncovered zone is marked as uncovered. The map is a recruitment instrument as much as a reference one.

The labeling of households against addresses is the collaboration described at section 5, and is the piece of work that turns a parcel map into something a captain can act on.

Appendix D — Contacts and Links

A short list. The fuller set, including the state grant programs, the fire departments serving our area, county government, and household preparedness resources, is at Appendix G of the August 5 minutes and on the website.

- **Emergency:** call 911. Dispatch determines who responds. Do not call individual stations in an emergency.
- **County emergency alerts:** register through the link on your door hanger or at agniwelcare.org/fire-safety.
- **Glenmore Volunteer Fire Department:** 179 Firehouse Road, Buckingham, (434) 969-2317. Nearest company to our neighborhoods.
- **Dillwyn Volunteer Fire Department:** 15896 N. James Madison Highway, Dillwyn, (434) 315-1141.
- **Virginia Department of Forestry:** current burn restrictions, daily fire danger rating, the Firewise Virginia mitigation grant, and the Dry Fire Hydrant Grant Program, all at dof.virginia.gov. Fire and Emergency Response Branch: fire@dof.virginia.gov.
- **Buckingham County GIS parcel viewer:** buckingham.interactivegis.com.
- **Our own materials:** minutes, addenda, appendices, the captain role description, the resident survey, and the resource pages at agniwelcare.org/fire-safety.
- **Corrections and comments:** manager@agniwelcare.org.

Appendix E

Neighborhood Association for Fire Safety (NAFS)

Proposal to the Board of Trustees

A state-funded dry fire hydrant at Lotus Lake

To: Jiva, Chair, Board of Trustees, Satchidananda Ashram–Yogaville, and the members of the Board

From: Erik Phillips-Nania, Secretary, AgniWellCare, for the Neighborhood Association for Fire Safety

Carried by: Mindy, NAFS liaison to the Board of Trustees

Date: August 21, 2026

Subject: Request for permission and site access for a dry fire hydrant at Lotus Lake, funded in full by the Commonwealth

Dear Jiva, and members of the Board,

At our July meeting you asked the Neighborhood Association for Fire Safety for something reasonable: a written proposal you could carry to the Board, explaining what a dry hydrant is, what it is for, where it would go, and what it would cost. We drafted one. Before it reached you, we learned two things that changed it materially, and we would rather send you a correct document late than a confident one on time.

This revision is shorter than the draft it replaces, and the request is smaller. The single most important change is this: the Commonwealth pays for the installation in full. The Ashram is not being asked for money, and neither is AgniWellCare.

1. The request, in brief

- Consideration in principle of a dry fire hydrant at Lotus Lake.
- Permission for a responding fire department and the Virginia Department of Forestry to visit the site and identify a workable location, and to report that location back to the Board.

- If the Board approves the location, permission to install, and access for the responding department to inspect and back-flush the hydrant periodically thereafter.

That is the whole of it. NAFS is not asking the Board for funds, for a maintenance commitment, for any change to the Ashram's use of the lake or the surrounding land, or for any relationship with NAFS or with AgniWellCare beyond the access described above.

2. What changed since the July draft

The money. The July draft assumed the cost would fall to the community and would be pursued through the Firewise Virginia mitigation grant, an 80/20 reimbursement program. That premise was wrong. Dry hydrants are funded through a separate state program that covers 100 percent of installation and repair, with no match. Section 4 of the July draft, which discussed cost at length without being able to state a figure, is deleted rather than revised.

The applicant. Under that program the application comes from a fire department, not from a community group and not from a landowner. NAFS cannot apply. Neither can the Ashram. What we can do is bring the site to a department's attention with the landowner's blessing, which is exactly what this letter is for.

What may already exist. We have since heard credible reports of existing water infrastructure at Lotus Lake and elsewhere on Ashram property. We have not verified them, we do not state them as fact, and we would rather raise them here than have the Board discover we had overlooked them. Section 5 sets this out plainly.

3. What a dry hydrant is

14. It is a fixed, unpressurized pipe. It has no pump, no power supply, and no moving parts.
15. One end sits below the water surface behind a strainer. The other end comes up at a point a fire engine can reach, fitted with a standard fire-department connection.

16. The engine's own pump, driven off the truck's engine, draws water up through it. Nothing on site has to work, switch on, or be found by anyone.
17. It delivers clean water. When crews drop a hose directly into a shallow pond or lake, the line picks up mud, and mud fouls a pump.
18. It sits idle and needs no attention until the moment it is needed. Periodic inspection and an occasional back-flush to clear sediment is the whole of its upkeep.
19. A pumper can lift water about twenty feet vertically and no further. This is atmospheric pressure rather than a limitation of equipment, and it is why the placement of a hydrant matters as much as the volume of water behind it.

4. Why Lotus Lake, and why this matters to the Ashram

Two sets of professionals have now looked at this ground, and they agree.

June 24, 2026. Two specialists from the Virginia Department of Forestry, Chad Stover, Regional Fire Specialist for the Central Region, and Michael Downey, Assistant Director for Wildfire Mitigation and Prevention, spent an afternoon touring our roads, ponds, and access points at our invitation. They identified the ponds and the spring-fed lake on Ashram property as genuine and underused assets, and named a dry hydrant at Lotus Lake as a concrete improvement available to this community at no cost to it.

August 5, 2026. A retired firefighter with roughly thirty years of service, a resident of this community since 1994 who served with the former Yogaville department and then with Toga, spent two hours with the association. Asked directly whether a dry hydrant at Lotus Lake would help, his answer was unqualified: it would be a real improvement. He described the last occasion crews used the lake for a fire. They drafted directly from it, and it was difficult, because the lake is shallow at the point they could reach and the hose picked up mud.

The wider picture he gave us is worth stating, because it explains why a single pipe matters so much here. There are no pressurized hydrants anywhere in our area, and there cannot be, because a hydrant requires a municipal water main and there is none. Every gallon that reaches a fire in these neighborhoods either arrives on a truck or is drafted out of a pond, lake, or creek. A first-arriving engine carries roughly 1,200 gallons, which at working flows is a matter of minutes rather than hours. Everything after that is a tanker shuttle: trucks filling at a static source, dumping into collapsible drop tanks, and returning, while the engine drafts continuously from the tank. The speed of that shuttle is set by how quickly a tanker can fill and how far it must drive to do it.

This is not a benefit to the surrounding neighborhoods at the Ashram's expense. Lotus Lake sits on Ashram land, and the structures nearest to it are Ashram structures. A hydrant there shortens the shuttle for a fire at the Temple, at a residence on any adjoining road, or in the woods at the interface between them. The Ashram is the first beneficiary, not an accommodating third party.

5. On the water infrastructure that may already exist

The Board should not be asked to approve something it may believe it already has, so we set out what we have been told, flagged as unverified.

A former Operations Manager of the Ashram reports that a hydrant already exists at Lotus Lake, behind the Lotus Temple, plumbed with hose and built to fight fire at the Temple. He describes it as drawing from the lake through the same pump that runs the pond fountain, operated by a switch alongside the heating and air-conditioning controls. He opened it once during his tenure; it ran muddy for a moment and then ran clear. He believes there may also be a second hydrant near the water treatment plant and wells, and that an out-of-service above-ground storage tank of roughly ten thousand gallons, together with a smaller one, remains plumbed as pressure storage and was taken out of service to avoid standing water. Separately, a member of this association reports a tank of roughly

sixteen thousand gallons, built in 1981 and mounted on cradles near the driveway up to Gurudev's, originally filled by a ram pump that lifted water some 250 feet with no electricity at all.

NAFS has verified none of this and records it as report rather than fact. We would be glad to be corrected on any of it.

If it is accurate, it does not displace this request. It strengthens it, for a reason the same former Operations Manager gave us himself, and he recommended pursuing the dry hydrant on exactly this ground.

An electrically pumped hydrant and a dry hydrant are different things. The first depends on a pump that has been in service many years, on a power supply, and on somebody knowing which switch to throw and being there to throw it. The second depends on none of those. And the scenario in which the Ashram would most need water is precisely the one in which power is out: our August guest, asked what hazard he would actually plan for here, named hurricanes first and ice storms second, and described the realistic local emergency as several days without power or roads. Redundancy is the entire argument, and it costs the Ashram nothing to have.

The Board may wish to have someone walk the plumbing with the person who knows it best before responding. NAFS would welcome that and will make its own findings available. It would settle three questions at once: what hydrants exist, what condition the tanks are in, and whether a gravity-fed tank that works without power is sitting unused on the property.

6. How it is funded

The Virginia Dry Fire Hydrant Grant Program is a joint program of the Virginia Department of Fire Programs and the Virginia Department of Forestry. Its published terms, verified for this letter:

20. **It provides 100 percent of the funding** for the installation of a new dry hydrant and for the repair of an existing one. There is no match and no reimbursement cycle.

21. **Support is available at the request of Virginia fire departments** who secure the approval of the local landowner. The department submits Form 4.30, the Dry Fire Hydrant Grant Program Application, to the DOF Fire and Emergency Response Branch.
22. **The application deadline is March 31 each year.**
23. **The purpose of the program, in the agencies' own framing,** is that knowing where the water is helps only if the water is accessible: soft or obstructed ground and distant locations hinder fire department operations, and a hydrant at an accessible roadside point removes the inefficiency of a long-distance shuttle.

The Department of Forestry advised us in June that a state contractor performs the site assessment and the installation and determines the best location, and that year-round access is the governing requirement, since the site must remain reachable for a water tender in the wet season as well as the dry.

Program terms can change. The sponsoring department will know the current requirements, and the DOF Fire and Emergency Response Branch can be reached at fire@dof.virginia.gov or (434) 977-6555.

7. Placement, and what the Board would approve

No location is proposed in this letter, deliberately. Placement is determined on site by people qualified to determine it, against practical requirements: water deep enough to draft year-round; a bank an engine can reach and stand on; and an approach and turnaround a heavy vehicle can use without becoming stuck or damaging what is buried beneath it.

What NAFS asks for at this stage is permission to bring the responding department and a Forestry specialist to the lake to identify a suitable point, and to return to the Board with that specific location before anything is installed. The Board would approve the location, not merely the idea, and would set any access or timing conditions it wishes at that point.

8. Upkeep

Dry hydrants require periodic inspection and an occasional back-flush to clear sediment from the strainer. NAFS proposes that this be coordinated with the responding fire company as part of its routine familiarization, at no cost and no obligation to the Ashram. This is ordinary practice rather than a special arrangement: Toga inspects its dry hydrants and drafting ponds annually, clearing trees and confirming that access has not been lost over the season.

9. A collateral benefit, stated carefully

Rural fire insurance is priced substantially on a community-level rating in which water supply carries significant weight, and creditable alternative water supplies, including suction points with dry hydrants and documented tanker shuttle operations, are recognized within it. A creditable water source can therefore affect the classification of properties near it.

NAFS is not qualified to tell the Board what any of that would mean for the Ashram's own premiums, and does not represent that it would mean anything. It is raised only because the Board's insurer or broker is well placed to answer it, and the question is worth asking while the opportunity is in front of you.

10. Timing, and what happens next

4. The Board responds to this request. Everything downstream waits on that answer.
5. With the Board's permission, NAFS approaches Glenmore and Toga. Both have direct operational interest: Lotus Lake sits in their response area and is currently a difficult source.
6. A sponsoring department visits the site with the Department of Forestry, identifies a location, and NAFS returns to the Board with it.
7. With the location approved, the department submits Form 4.30 to DOF ahead of the March 31, 2027 deadline.

8.DOF funds the work and the department coordinates installation. This is not urgent in the sense that anything is at risk this month. It is time-bound in the sense that the deadline falls once a year, and a volunteer department needs lead time to visit a site and complete a form. An answer this autumn keeps the March window comfortably open.

11. Who is asking

The Neighborhood Association for Fire Safety is an independent, geographic neighborhood effort, open to every resident of these roads regardless of affiliation. It is not a program of AgniWellCare and not a program of the Ashram. AgniWellCare serves as applicant, federal registrant, and fiscal agent for a separate matter, the Firewise Virginia mitigation grant, and has no role in the dry hydrant program, which is funded and administered entirely by the Commonwealth through a fire department applicant.

We are grateful for the Board's attention, and grateful to you in particular for asking us to put this in writing in the first place. It has made the request a good deal clearer than it was.

Respectfully submitted,

Erik Phillips-Nania

Secretary, AgniWellCare

for the Neighborhood Association for Fire Safety (NAFS)

manager@agniwelcare.org · agniwelcare.org/fire-safety

Om shanti

Attachment A — Sources

24. **Virginia Dry Hydrant Grant, Virginia Department of Fire Programs.** Program terms, eligibility, and the March 31 deadline: vdfp.virginia.gov/grants/dry-hydrant
25. **Dry Hydrant Program, Virginia Department of Forestry.** Application process, Form 4.30, and the

landowner-approval requirement: dof.virginia.gov — Wildland and Prescribed Fire, Fire Department Resources, Dry Hydrants

26. **Form 4.30**, Dry Fire Hydrant Grant Program Application, available from the DOF resource library.
27. **Dry Hydrant Manual**, USFS R8-TP-19, the reference publication on alternative water sources and dry hydrant delivery systems for rural fire protection.
28. **DOF Fire and Emergency Response Branch:**
fire@dof.virginia.gov; Virginia Department of Forestry, 900 Natural Resources Drive, Charlottesville, (434) 977-6555.
29. **NAFS meeting notes** of June 24, July 15, August 5, and August 19, 2026, including the full account of the Department of Forestry site visit and the August advisory visit:
agniwelcare.org/fire-safety

Om shanti