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Letter: Will the real town of Fraser please stand up?

Opinion [FOLLOW OPINION](#) | April 30, 2021

Letter to the editor

Six months have passed since the Fraser Board of Trustees passed Resolution No. 2020-10-05. That resolution voided the March 3, 2020 Elk Creek Conservation Easement for 17-acres that also gave a release to the town's largest landowner and developer from the requirement contained in the Annexation Agreement for the preservation of 469-acres of Open Space.

As we all know, such release was not previously approved by the town board and our town manager resigned in the aftermath.

Town officials have commented that an outside attorney was retained and a committee formed to review the town's development documents. We do not know the scope of this work or whether a report of finding will ever be publicly released.

In the interim, we have two unfinished buildings languishing at the entrance to our town and "sediment-laden stormwater" flowing from land being developed by Grand Park Development LLC into the Fraser River and Elk Creek. Notices of Violation for this water pollution have been issued by the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment.

The future of Cozens Meadow has been jeopardized and opened for development and now our cherished Fraser River is being polluted. Who will put a stop to this? We need development, but it needs to be smart and responsible.

Last week the town board was tasked with appointing a replacement trustee for the year remaining on the seat vacated by Ryan Barwick. Peggy Smith applied to fill this seat and was prepared to stand up for this community and address these development issues head on. Her support was publicly broadcast and widespread among Grand Park and Rendezvous residents, Fraser old-timers, primary and secondary homeowners, and beyond into the county.

Despite Peggy's overwhelming support, the board moved in a different direction appointing Kaydee Fisher to the seat. I wish Ms. Fisher well and remain open-minded about her appointment.

The leadership and oversight of the town begins with the board. When are we going to see this leadership tackling these development issues? What enforcement measures are available?

Five, 10, and 15 years from now, I want to be able to say that "our valley has developed soundly, well-planned, and with good construction practices" — not "What happened?"

So, will the Real Town of Fraser Please Stand Up?

— Michele Murray-Hedlund, Fraser