



**Minutes**  
**Carbondale Tree Board**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Thursday, October 19, 2023**

Kari Bevevino called the in-person/virtual meeting of the Carbondale Tree Board to order at 6:01 PM on Thursday, October 19, 2023, at Carbondale's Town Hall.

**The following members were present for Roll Call:**

Members Present:

Lisa Paige (Virtual)	Chair
Dan Bullock	Member
Kari Bevevino	Member
Joanne Teeple	Member

Members Absent:

Sky Quarto	Member
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Town Staff Present:

Carl Meinecke	Town of Carbondale Arborist
Kae McDonald	Boards and Commissions Clerk

Guests:

Samuel Martinez	Prospective Tree Board Member
Casey Criswell	425 West 3rd Street, Rifle
Patti Lecht	2500 Highway 133, Carbondale

- 1. Roll Call**
- 2. 6:00 PM - 6:05 PM: Consent Agenda**

Motion to approve the August 17, 2023, Tree Board meeting minutes.

*Moved by:* Dan Bullock

*Seconded by:* Lisa Paige

**Carried**

### **3. Items from Citizens Present Not on the Agenda**

Patti Lecht, 2500 Highway 133, offered her assistance with the Emerald Ash Borer situation.

Dan explained that Carl is developing an action plan for the trees in Carbondale's right-of-way except for those ash trees planted in the Rivier Valley Ranch development.

Carl added that he has updated the Colorado Tree View (<https://cotreeview.com/cotv/>) website detailing those ash trees he plans to treat and those which are slated for removal. He pointed out that the Emerald Ash Borer is so aggressive trees must be either undergoing treatment or removed to limit the spread, and not all trees are candidates for treatment.

Dan noted that the treatment is an injection and trees less than 6" in diameter aren't good candidates and will likely be removed. He explained that those trees will eventually be replaced, pending budget appropriations and outside funding sources. He underscored that the Emerald Ash Borer is an exceptional problem and some trees that undergo treatment might still be lost. He added that River Valley Ranch is a separate case because they pay for all tree maintenance and care within that development.

### **4. Action Items**

#### **4.1 Prospective Member Application**

Kari noted that Samuel Martinez is attending the meeting virtually and has applied for consideration as a regular member. She asked him to introduce himself.

Samuel explained that he is a certified arborist, is also Tree Risk Assessment qualified, and is certified in pesticide and disease management and treatment. He is an active member of the arborist association and contributes to climbing competitions by being an in-tree aerial rescue technician. He added that he lends his equipment to encourage the next generation of climbers to clean up local parks and be civic-minded. He is also building a program for sponsorship and membership to help those involved in the green industry to gain their certifications and be matched with a mentor.

Kari noted that Sam's application included "we" several times in his statements and asked if he was applying as an individual or as a representative of ColoradoAsh.

Samuel replied that it was intended as the "royal we," but also noted that he leads a coalition of arborists that work together as a team.

Dan commented that Carbondale already has a Town Arborist and pointed out that the Tree Board serves in an advisory capacity to the Board of Trustees. He stated that they need Tree Board members, not another team of arborists, and thought there would be situations Samuel will need to recuse himself.

Kari agreed that there may be conflicts of interest that may arise.

Joanne reminded the board members that they have previously had arborists as Tree Board members, and she thought it was beneficial to have other points of view. She agreed that the "we" in his application was troubling and that it could present a conflict of interest.

Samuel replied that he is applying to be a Tree Board member as an individual and stated that he will be the one involved with the Tree Board. He thought that working with a group of educated individuals was a strength rather than a hindrance and understood that he might need to recuse himself when there is a potential conflict of interest. He noted that he does bring resources and backing, and he wants to contribute to the Town.

Lisa suggested taking a 30,000-foot perspective and that while the EAB is an immediate crisis the board members also need to take the longer view which is the Carbondale's urban landscape and the relationships and expectations that the community members have with it. She thought Samuel brought training and perspective that is important to that endeavor.

Dan suggested that Samuel read Carbondale's Tree Ordinance, noting that unlike Aspen, Carbondale doesn't dictate what happens on private property but is limited to the public right-of-way and Town parks.

Joanne asked if Samuel was involved with the ad hoc group of arborists that attended the July meeting.

Samuel answered that he was not.

Motion to recommend Samuel Martinez be appointed as a regular member of the Carbondale Tree Board with an updated application to the Board of Trustees.

*Moved by:* Jo Anne Teeple

*Seconded by:* Kari Bevevinio

**Carried**

#### **4.2 US Forest Service Hawthorn Tree**

Joanne commented that she had checked the list of trees the US Forest Service was saving and while the Hawthorne on the property doesn't hold a lot of value, it is the best tree on the lot. She stated that it was a gorgeous ornamental tree, and she would like to petition to move it, preferably to another protected area such as the Thompson House or Chacos Park. She thought its removal could be successful using a 96-inch spade.

Dan suggested approaching the Parks & Recreation Commission to see where it might best be located and asked where the funding for its removal and replanting might come from.

Joanne pointed out that funding will be necessary for replacing the many ash trees that will need to be cut down.

Carl asked how big the tree was.

Joanne replied that it isn't a shade tree, but rather an ornamental, and that it is a mature tree well-suited to the area.

Carl noted that the Crab Apple that he moved from the WeCycle station next to the roundabout struggled this summer, but he thought it would survive.

Lisa wondered if the Tree Board could undertake a fundraiser to move the tree, but also questioned whether the project might be too big for the board members to take on.

Joanne countered that there were several budgets from which to pull the funding. She noted that hawthorns are on Carbondale's Tree List, and she thought it worth the effort to save the tree.

Dan suggested the board members direct Carl to approach the Parks & Recreation Department for an appropriate place.

Carl agreed to investigate locations appropriate to move the tree to. He pointed out that before he spends a lot of time on that activity, he will need to assess the tree to ensure it will survive the move. He commented that the Board also needs to acknowledge that the tree might not survive.

Sam agreed that it wasn't just the size of the tree, but its age, vigor, overall health, and surrounding environment that contribute to its survival.

### 4.3 Emerald Ash Borer Messaging Plan

Carl referred to the handout distributed at the beginning of the meeting, noting information to be included on the door hanger:

Front Side:

Emerald Ash Borer has arrived

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) has been identified in the Town of Carbondale as of June 2023. EAB is a non-native invasive wood boring pest that affects all species of Ash trees.

Educate yourself about symptoms and treatment options for ash trees and the Town's plan for management of public ash trees.

<insert QR code>

Back Side:

Movement of Ash logs for firewood is prohibited. Adult bugs can emerge from infected firewood after transport thus spreading EAB. Chip infested Ash material before transport. Transport larger logs not chippable to Pitkin County or South Canyon landfills. Movement of infested Ash tree materials is discouraged between May through August as adult bugs are actively flying during this time frame.

A list of registered tree care companies that have ISA Certified Arborist and Licensed Commercial Applicators is available for homeowners to aid in EAB management.

<insert QR code>

Carl asked if it would be possible to share the work load with the board members, specifically posting the door hangers, and noted that Staff would work on the website.

Dan was willing to print the door hangers for distribution. He suggested continuing the public service announcements on KDNK and the Sopris Sun, as well as conducting a second information meeting for the public in January or February.

Kari was willing to help distribute the door hangers, as well as providing any needed help on the marketing strategy.

Joanne suggested that the information also be available in Spanish and to bullet-point the listed information on the door hangers.

Dan suggested looking for funding for replacement trees, noting that he could contact the Colorado Tree Coalition and Kami Long for any funds available. He explained that the Kay Brunner Memorial Tree Fund is currently on hold, and that Kay prefers to interact only with the Town arborist.

Carl noted that he is also working on the wording for a Registered Tree Care Company list, explaining that he thought it would be beneficial not only for the EAB, but for general use as well.

Samuel pointed out that a business license is also required to obtain a pesticide commercial applicator license.

Carl thought it might be helpful to require bonding and insurance, noting that municipalities varied widely on this practice, and thought proof of application success was important.

Lisa thought the list would be useful for Homeowners Associations.

Dan thought the list would be helpful but cautioned that the Town's attorney should review the wording. He thought at the very least they should register with the Public Works Director.

Carl was amenable to consulting the Town's attorney to ensure it is presented in an appropriate way.

Joanne suggested adding an actual size illustration of the EAB to show how small it is.

Samuel commented that he has had better success with the door hangers that have minimal information, otherwise more information generates a lot of questions.

## **5. Information Only Items**

### **5.1 Town Arborist Tree Report**

Carl referred to the Tree Report included in the meeting packet. Other items of note include:

- He is finalizing a clear list of Ash trees to treat and will begin removing trees this winter.
- A few Ash trees have been removed while working on trail clearance throughout town.
- The Ash trees removed on Village Road declined very quickly, which is another reason to move quickly on this problem. He is contracting the removal of a third Ash on Village Road because it is too large.
- The trees along Main Street that are slated for removal have been flagged. He is working with the Town's Public Information Office on a PSA that should be posted on the Town's website soon. He won't replace any of the trees removed until he can confirm the irrigation system works.

Lisa suggested developing a vision for Carbondale's urban landscape.

Carl agreed that would be helpful in seeing how things connect.

Joanne urged considering how the "Plant a Block," pointing out that grouping landscape allows the Parks Department to mow around plantings and it also presents a cohesive look.

Carl noted that while the Ash trees have been updated on COTreeView, he would like to update the rest of Carbondale's tree inventory beginning next summer. He stated that volunteer help would be welcome, and an updated inventory could lead to the development of a master plan. He like Joanne's block idea, suggesting that rather than take the entire inventory on in one summer, they could divide it up into a series of sections and update portions on an annual basis.

Joanne suggested undertaking the inventory as an adjunct to Arbor Day and framing it as an educational opportunity.

Samuel volunteered to share assessment forms and information with Carl.

## **6. Adjournment**

The October 19, 2023, meeting of Carbondale's Tree Board was adjourned at 7:23 pm. The next regular Tree Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 16, 2023, at 6:00 pm in Room 1 at Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Kae McDonald

Boards & Commissions Clerk, Town of Carbondale