

**MINUTES  
TREE BOARD  
October 21, 2021**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Dan Bullock called the in-person/virtual hybrid meeting to order at 6:10 pm on October 21, 2021, in Room 1 at Town Hall.

**ROLL CALL**

The following members were present for roll call:

Members Present:        Lisa Paige, Co-Chair (Virtual)  
                                  Dan Bullock, Member  
                                  Jo Anne Teeple, Member  
                                  Sky Quarto, Member (Late)

Town Staff Present:     Mike Callas, Town of Carbondale Staff Liaison  
                                  Marty Silverstein, Board of Trustees Liaison  
                                  Kae McDonald, Boards and Commissions Clerk

**CONSENT AGENDA**

***Motion Passed:*** Jo Anne ***moved*** to approve the September 2021 Tree Board minutes. Sky ***seconded*** the motion, and it was ***unanimously approved***.

**PERSONS PRESENT NOT ON THE AGENDA**

There was no one present, not on the agenda, to address the Tree Board.

**TREE ORDINANCE REVISIONS**

Dan referred to the changes previously proposed that were highlighted in the packet and asked to include “electronic plans” in the verbiage, as well.

Jo Anne asked to include “live” under section 7.10.010.A.

Mike pointed out that irrigation standards have been updated and noted that these standards are part of the TOC Public Works manual. He added that he will also ask that they be included in the building permit packet that gets distributed with building permit applications.

Jo Anne suggested that “tree gators” be added to the Irrigation Standards.

Dan noted that once the Resolution verbiage has been agreed upon, it will be forwarded to the Public Works Director, Planning Director and Building Official for review.

Lisa asked about the timeline to submit to the Board of Trustees for approval.

Jo Anne commented that it should be after the budget review and after a new town manager has been hired.

Mike anticipated the submission would be in February.

Dan emphasized that it should also be included as part of the Unified Development Code.

**8<sup>th</sup> STREET PLAN REVIEW**

Mike opened the discussion by noting that the goal of the 8th Street project is to make the street more pedestrian friendly. He added that all the work will occur within the TOC right-of-way and emphasized that no work will trespass onto private property. Mike commented that a lot of elm

trees will be removed as part of the project, and he was comfortable with that. He noted that the construction plans made accommodations to save a spruce tree and two pine trees; the spruce is located within the right-of-way and a bulb-out will be constructed around it so four to six feet of dirt will surround the spruce. Mike explained that during his inspection of the tree he didn't notice much sidewalk heaving, which suggests that the roots grew down into the surrounding soil. He also noted that the existing sidewalk was built on the grade, so when it is removed the root mass shouldn't be damaged.

Mike went on to explain that the pine tree at 512 N. 8th is located on private property; he recommended as much protection as possible during construction including ensuring the contractor doesn't get into the canopy.

Jo Anne asked if any of the tree roots would be air pruned.

Mike wasn't sure and indicated that the roots will be inspected as the sidewalk is removed because it is hard to tell what is happening underground.

Dan asked what the TOC liability is if the trees on private property are compromised. Mike replied that that was a cause for concern and will check with the Public Works Director.

Jo Anne noted that the plans appeared to be at 90%--not 100%--because there are no landscape or irrigation specifications.

Mike responded that these are the final plans.

Jo Anne voiced her concern that because the tree canopies are largely on private property, at what point does information get passed onto property owners about work conducted in the public right-of-way that may damage the tree roots.

Dan agreed with Jo Anne but noted that on the positive side it may provide an opportunity to develop a backyard forestry program where the TOC supports homeowners in planting trees.

Sky wondered what the legal duty was to inform property owners.

Marty replied that he could ask the Town Attorney for his opinion on the liability issue.

Joanne noted that while she was walking 8th Street between four and five today there was a lot of traffic and wondered how the traffic would be diverted during the project.

Lisa added that when trucks make the turn at 8th and Main, they travel up and over the curb and are wearing out the grass at that corner. She also noted that some of the longer trucks can't make the roundabout, which forces them to use Colorado and 8th Street.

Marty pointed out that 8th Street has been a truck route for a long time and that it is also an emergency and school bus route. He commented that he wasn't sure everyone understood the full ramifications of the project and all the liabilities that may go along with it. He committed to bring the issues up to the proper staff for answers.

Jo Anne also noted that the plans don't clearly state what structural items are going to be protected.

Mike replied that if the structural items are on private property, they will be protected in place.

Marty added that if the structural items are within the TOC right-of-way they will be removed.

Jo Anne asked about snow removal, noting it will be a very built environment.

Dan commented that he didn't see a problem with the removal of trees, but he is concerned about root damage for the spruce and all the trees on private property. He encouraged Marty to contact the Town Attorney about liability.

Jo Anne pointed out that there is an over-mature Box Elder that may be impacted. She encouraged Mike to think about the urban canopy and offer the property owners an opportunity to plant an acceptable shade tree.

Dan reiterated the opportunity and his support for developing a backyard forestry program.

Jo Anne suggested that if trees are going to be compromised, that "nurse" trees be offered in their place.

Mike reiterated that there won't be any below-grade construction that is likely to damage tree roots.

Jo Anne asked about protecting the pedestal at the corner of Village and Morrison—she was specifically concerned about protecting the apple tree within the cemetery.

Mike responded that a handicap ramp will be added, and the sidewalk will be replaced at grade and reiterated there will not be any below-grade construction.

Dan pointed out that the apple tree isn't on the current Tree list and wouldn't be allowed to be planted now, but he did acknowledge that it is within the TOC right-of-way.

Jo Anne listed additional concerns: 1) the tree at the corner of Merrill may be compromised; 2) protection of the planting wall at 432 N. 8<sup>th</sup>, 3) improve the plan set legend; 4) stipulate how property will be protected within the limits of work; 5) stipulate the standards for compaction, clearing and grubbing; 6) has the setback been surveyed?

Mike confirmed that the setback has been surveyed.

### **MICHAEL'S TREE REPORT**

Mike noted that he is preparing to plant trees in the downtown pots for the winter season; they will be Black Hills Spruce. He added that he would like to discuss reinventing the winter season because the trees have a poor survival rate, and not only is he running out of room to plant those that do but it isn't a good example of sustainability. He would prefer winter displays by the gardeners that adopted the pots.

Marty suggested bringing up these concerns with the new town manager.

Mike informed the board members that Aspen Tree Service is on schedule for fall pruning; two hazardous elms will be removed along with some other tree maintenance.

Jo Anne asked if any community members had commented on the removal of the spruce tree.

Mike replied that no one had. He added that he has been exploring why the irrigation never functioned and it appears the irrigation clock was dismantled at some point; if the bulb out located at that corner ever needs to be torn up, he will be able to repair it.

Jo Anne suggested that, moving forward, any new projects are demonstration projects.

Dan announced that he and Meredith had contributed \$250.00 to KDNK in the name of the Tree Board and in return there are ten radio spots the Tree Board can use for various public service announcements. He suggested using them in tandem with ads in the Sopris Sun.

Jo Anne would like to see them run in both English and Spanish.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The October 21, 2021, regular meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled on November , 2021 at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kae McDonald  
Town of Carbondale  
Boards and Commissions Clerk