



Minutes
Carbondale Tree Board
Regular Meeting
November 16, 2023

Lisa Paige called the meeting of the Carbondale Tree Board to order at 6:01 p.m. on November 16, 2023, in Room 1 at Town Hall and virtually.

The following members were present for Roll Call:

Members Present:

Lisa Paige	Chair
Dan Bullock	Member
Kari Bevevino	Member
Samuel Martinez	Member
Jo Anne Teeple	Member

Town Staff Present:

Carl Meinecke	Town of Carbondale Arborist
Marty Silverstein	Board of Trustees Liaison
Kae McDonald	Boards and Commissions Clerk

1. Roll Call

2. Consent Agenda

2.1 Approval of October 19, 2023, Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the October 19, 2023, meeting minutes.

Moved by: Dan Bullock

Seconded by: Kari Bevevino

Carried

3. Items from Citizens Present Not on the Agenda

There was no one present, not on the agenda, to address the board members.

4. Action Items

4.1 Update on Hawthorne located on USFS Property

Carl apologized for the confusion but stated that unless he is directed to do so by the Public Works Director, he won't be pursuing this request.

Jo Anne noted that with the loss of trees to Emerald Ash Borer, among other things, saving a mature tree that is thriving well in this climate and that is on the Street Tree List would be a better option than saving one of the Spruce trees. She committed to speaking with the Public Works Director about this subject.

Marty commented that the Town does have the funds to treat or remove and replace those Ash trees infested with EAB.

4.2 Review Rough Draft of Emerald Ash Borer Door Hanger

Dan noted that the draft door hanger he distributed is based on an example the Tree Board used a few years ago; he acknowledged that the artwork would need to be added to the final copy. Dan explained that the door hangers would be useful for Carl to leave, not only if EAB is suspected, but also in anticipation of other sorts of work. He also pointed out the tree care tips and contact information included.

Marty suggested inserting something similar in the March utility bill and posting it on the Public Works Department webpage.

Carl commented that he has been working with the Town's Public Information Officer and when the Town's website is updated, he would like to add more information to the Public Works Department webpage.

Dan added that he thought it would be a good idea to reinvigorate the "Tree Stewards" to assist in identifying EAB-infested Ash trees as well as assist with the tree inventory.

Kari suggested adding verbiage explaining why trees might be cut down, pointing out that many lay people don't understand, and that action can be received with a mix of emotions.

Marty suggested contacting the Sopris Sun and request that a short update be included monthly. He also suggested issuing a public service announcement on KDNK, as well as making sure any public communication is translated into Spanish.

Lisa explained that she had a conversation with Carl, and he is on the receiving end of community members emotions – for example, when he is hanging Christmas lights, it is appreciated, but when he is cutting down a tree, many are displeased with what he is doing. She suggested it might be helpful to engage in a discussion with the Public Works Director on ways that Carl can be supported while he is doing his job.

Marty agreed, noting that in his opinion putting up holiday lights could be perceived as a waste of Carl's skills compared to an inventory of the Town's trees.

Dan interjected that the reason the arborist is involved is to prevent damage to the trees.

Jo Anne asked that the door hanger state "Carbondale Tree Stewards tend to your Town tree today," so they don't think that just anybody was crossing the right-of-way to take care of

trees. She also suggested the tree stewards, just like master gardeners, should explain all options in a factual way without emotion and an educational component should be part of the Tree Stewards programming. She suggested adding another line to water trees regularly throughout a dry winter.

Lisa reminded the board members that establishing standards were discussed for companies working on trees in Carbondale.

Carl indicated added that the list will be for registered tree care companies and to be on the list they must have a certified arborist on staff or have a commercial pesticide applicator certification. He noted that they are also considering bonding and insurance.

Dan commented that the primary purpose for the door hanger is that it is an indication that Carl will be contacting the property owner.

Carl asked for confirmation that the purpose of the door hanger is only for trees in the public right-of-way.

Dan answered in the affirmative. He suggested that if there were any other suggestions, let him know and he will bring a revised version back for discussion in January.

Lisa asked if the expectation was to utilize it as part of the EAB Work Plan.

Dan replied that it could be used for several reasons.

Carl suggested that the utility bill insert be crafted specifically for EAB.

4.3 Review Rough Draft of letter to Parks & Recreation Director and Parks & Recreation Commission regarding preserving trees within proposed Aquatics Facility

Dan commented that the new aquatics facility isn't as far along as people might think. He explained that he tried to keep the letter positive along with a request to meet with the Parks & Recreation Commission to discuss saving the trees listed.

Marty summarized the status of the project, noting that it is beneficial to get this request in front of the architects as soon as possible.

Dan agreed, noting that the first step of a concept should be existing conditions.

Marty replied that everything is under consideration, including remodeling the existing building, because they are trying to value engineer the project wherever they can.

Dan listed the nine trees in question, noting that the Columnar Oak is 25 years old and the Spruce and Siberian Elm on the east side of the pool are significant trees and it would be a real loss if they were removed. He noted that he included the comment about removing some of the Siberian Elms because they have caused problems with the pool's mechanical operations in the past.

Lisa asked when they should plan to present this to the Board of Trustees.

Marty suggested distributing it to the Parks and Recreation Director, the Public Works Director and the Town Manager for the initial review and plan on presenting it to the BOT after the April elections.

Carl added that a lot depends upon how the trees are valued in context.

Jo Anne suggested adding information about tree protection during construction.

Carl noted that it is important to consider the root zone and allow as much space as possible around that area.

4.4 Collaboration with the Carbondale Environmental Board Bee Friendly Subcommittee in updating landscapes codes to include water-wise standards and support native landscapes

Lisa summarized the email she received from the Environmental Board Chair, Hannah-Hunt Moeller, about updating Carbondale's landscape code to include native plants and water-wise landscapes. She acknowledged that the email didn't contain a lot of detail or any definitions for native plants or water-wise landscapes.

Dan commented that he participated in developing Carbondale's Unified Development Code and thought that, with all the boards and commissions involved in making these changes, the process could take several years. He asked if the Town was willing to restrict landscaping on private property and in his opinion, this was a low priority unless there is a requirement for all spaces – public and private – to re-landscape at their or the public expense. He stated that this was the only way he thought this could be successful. He listed his other questions:

- What the Town is currently doing about water use in all the public spaces and buildings?
- What does the Town require for new buildings -- both residential and commercial?
- What does the Town require for remodeling – both residential and commercial?
- What does the Town propose for the controlled use of tap water?
- How does the Town propose to control water that the Town has no right to control (for example, River Valley Ranch)?
- Does the Town have the appetite to restrict both tap and ditch water use for landscaping?

Dan noted that while he supported the concept, the ramifications go beyond changing the UDC, and as the climate changes everyone will be required to face the situation in the coming years. He thought the discussion should go back to Public Works until the specifics have been worked out. He also acknowledged that given the Integrated Weed Management Plan, the Town doesn't have the staff to mitigate noxious weeds that inevitably will crop up.

Lisa agreed to communicate with Hannah-Hunt.

Jo Anne referred to the Colorado Legislative Committee coming out eight-to-two on nonfunctional turf at commercial sites. She noted that it is the 40th anniversary of xeriscape that was coined by the Denver Water Board. She commented that she has spent quite a bit of time weeding the plant select garden behind the Rec Center, noting that it could be a great demonstration garden but it's not. She added that Basalt is now an arboretum and they have done a great job with Plant Select. She didn't think the emphasis on native plants was a good idea because Carbondale didn't have a wide range of native plants historically and the Town is now an artificial environment. She noted the draconian water regulations being instituted in Aspen for new construction and many remodels and thought the effort for irrigation to meet those requirements is horrifying. She pointed out the requirements the Ruedi Water were asking for at a recent BOT work session, noting that questions were raised about the

underground environment and how that might be supported with water restrictions. She agreed that the pollinator endeavor should be undertaken on an individual basis.

Marty explained that the Bee Friendly Committee were awarded a turf replacement grant from the State of Colorado that will allow individual property owners to get money for removing turf and that is separate from this endeavor. He added that Ruedi wanted to fine Carbondale residents for using water and they would be setting the standards. He pointed out the BOT did not approve that agreement, noting that community members are already good about conserving water.

5. Information Items

5.1 Town Arborist Tree Report

Carl listed the work completed since the last meeting:

- Emerald Ash Borer
 - The owner of the building at Weant & Main removed Ash in sidewalk infested by EAB as requested.
 - Town staff removed ash in the plaza not selected for treatment.
- Holiday Lighting
- Tree Work
 - Rec-path & street clearance around town to facilitate snowplowing
- Contract Work Completed
 - Removal of dying cottonwood on Oak Run in the ROW
 - Pruned Box Elder in front of White River Books on N 2nd
 - Pruned Large Siberian Elm at 189 N 7th
- Upcoming Contracted Tree Work

Streets:

Address	Street	Species	Tree Work
86	S 3 rd St.	S. Elm	Raise over street, Reduce from house, Crown Clean
210	Garfield	S. Elm	Remove, Stump Grind
266	S 4 th St.	S. Elm	Crown Clean
3 rd - 4 th N side	Sopris Ave	S. Elms	Raise over street, Reduce from houses, Crown Clean
756	Sopris Ave	S. Elms	Raise over street, Reduce from house, Crown Clean
785	Sopris Ave	S. Elm	Raise over street, Reduce from house, Crown Clean
873	Sopris Ave	S. Elm	Raise over street, Reduce from houses, Crown Clean

Parks:

Location	Tree#	Species	Tree Work
Gianinetti Park	62	Cottonwood	Remove

Gianinetti Park	1607025	Willow	Crown Clean
Miners Park	1607467	Cottonwood	Cable
Thomson House	61	S. Elm	Crown Clean

6. Adjournment

The November 16, 2023, meeting of the Carbondale Tree Board was adjourned at 7:14 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for January 18, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. in Room 1 at Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Kae McDonald

Boards & Commissions Clerk, Town of Carbondale

Draft