

**MINUTES  
TREE BOARD  
March 16, 2023**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Lisa Paige called the in-person meeting to order at 6:00 pm on March 16, 2023, in Room 1 at Town Hall.

**ROLL CALL**

The following members were present for roll call:

Members Present:	Lisa Paige, Chair Dan Bullock, Member Kari Bevevino, Member Jo Anne Teeple, Member Sky Quarto, Member
Town Staff Present:	Carl Meinecke, Town of Carbondale Staff Liaison Kae McDonald, Boards and Commissions Clerk
Guests:	Hannah-Hunt Moeller, Environmental Board Chair/Bee Friendly Carbondale Coalition

**CONSENT AGENDA**

***Motion Passed:*** Dan ***moved*** to approve the February 16, 2023 meeting minutes with one correction – to identify Kamie Long as the Colorado State Forest Service Urban and Community Forester. Sky ***seconded*** the motion, and it was ***unanimously approved***.

**PERSONS PRESENT NOT ON THE AGENDA**

There were no persons present, not on the agenda, to address the Board.

**ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD “BEE FRIENDLY CARBONDALE” TURF REPLACEMENT PROPOSAL**

Hannah-Hunt Moeller, the Chair of the Carbondale Environmental Board, explained that an Environmental Board subcommittee – “Bee Friendly Carbondale” – is working on supporting efforts to transition residential and public spaces to low water/native plants. She noted that she has met with Carl \*\*\*. Hannah-Hunt related that the Bee Friendly Carbondale coalition is undertaking three strategies to promote their message:

- Develop a database with information on low water and native plants; The coalition will be launching their education efforts at Dandelion Days;
- Support a Demonstration Garden – the coalition is adopting garden space at Sopris Park;
- Develop Landscape Standards and pursue code/standard updates. Hannah-Hunt acknowledged that the Tree Board reviews development landscape plans and she asked if a Tree Board member would be interested in engaging with the Bee Friendly Coalition.

Jo Anne asked Hannah-Hunt to define what terms the coalition was using to define low water, pollinators and pollinator-friendly concepts.

Hannah-Hunt replied that low water plants are those that don't take in a lot of water (not zero-water) and are native and/or regionally adapted species. She added that pollinator-friendly plants are those that support bees, butterflies and other pollinators, thereby supporting the larger food webs throughout the ecosystem.

Jo Anne asked if they were working with entomologists.

Sky asked if they would have information at Dandelion Days.

Hannah-Hunt replied in the affirmative to both questions, noting that they have a depth of knowledge among the coalition members.

Dan commented that he was encouraged to see that the coalition will be targeting residential yards, noting that xeriscaped public rights-of-way are more difficult to maintain. He pointed out that the Highway 133 right-of-way is controlled by the Colorado Department of Transportation and they approve what is planted along the road. He added that as residential space is converted to lower water habitats that momentum would drive change for the public rights-of-way. He also pointed out that the challenge is maintenance and weed control.

Hannah-Hunt replied that she was aware of the history for some of the public spaces intended to be xeric. She explained that they will apply concepts they want to encourage in their adopted garden at Sopris Park, adding that she is planning to meet with additional Town staff to determine how to right-fit the coalition's intentions. She agreed that the residential focus will have a greater impact and pointed out that they are reviewing Aspen's and Glenwood Springs' landscape standards to see how that strategy might work for Carbondale.

Dan added that the Tree Board's purview is advising Town staff and the Board of Trustees on all things trees within the public right-of-way, reiterating that private property is not their responsibility.

Jo Anne asked if the Bee Friendly Coalition will be applying the seven principles of xeriscape. She also asked if the coalition was informed about Aspen's Water Efficient Landscaping Standards and the Plant Select Program. She noted that low-water landscape strategies are, in her opinion, very restrictive.

Hannah-Hunt replied that she was aware of the seven principles and the Plant Select program and added that she would investigate Aspen's standards. She noted that they are still in the information gathering stage.

Dan supported the education efforts of the coalition. He asked if they would be working in the Roaring Fork Transit Authority's right-of-way, pointing out that there is no irrigation available in the corridor.

Hannah-Hunt replied that there are many restrictions along the RFTA R-O-W and they are unlikely to attempt a project in that space.

Dan agreed to act as the liaison between the Tree Board and the Bee Friendly Carbondale coalition.

Jo Anne encouraged Hannah-Hunt to review the plant list produced by the Denver Water Board, noting that no one has adopted the xeriscape standards in the 40 years since they were published.

Sky asked if they had checked with local schools or community service for help.

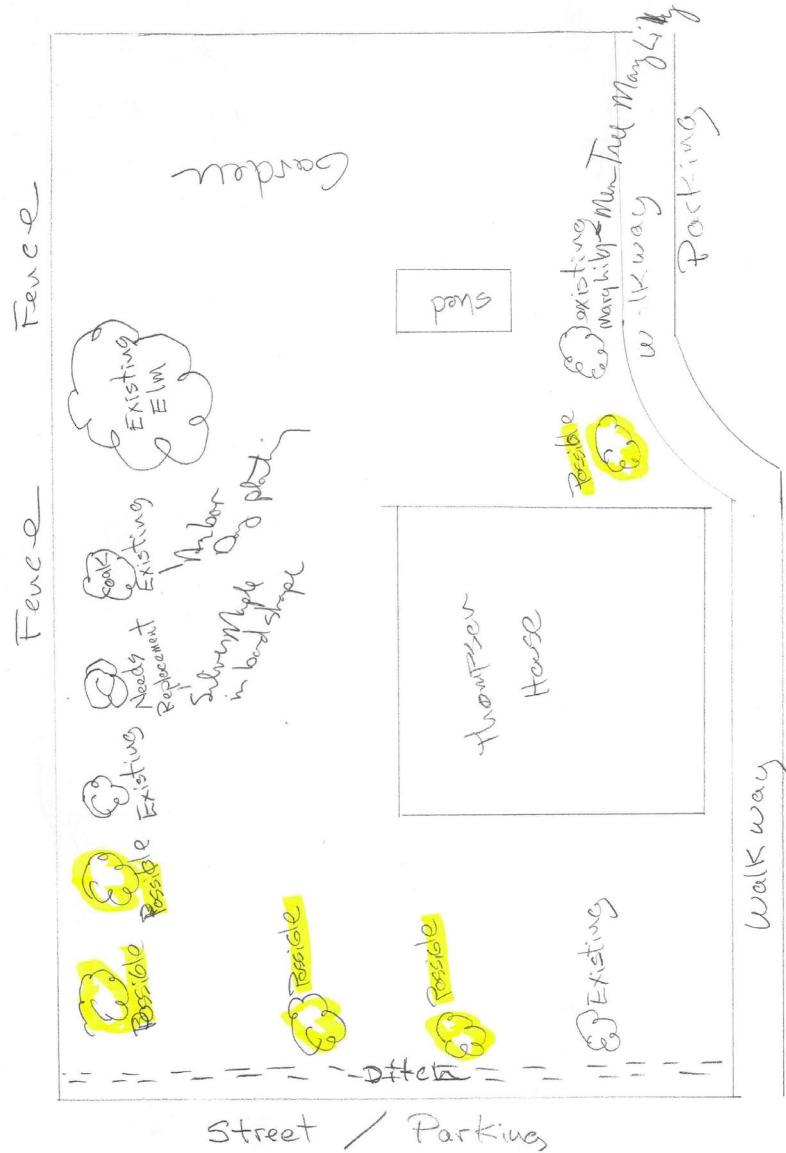
Carl replied that the Town will engage members of the public needing community service hours, but pointed out that they require direct supervision so it does limit their effectiveness.

Hannah-Hunt replied that the coalition has had conversations with the Ross Montessori garden supervisor.

**ARBOR DAY – ANNE CHAPMAN MEMORIAL TREE AT THOMPSON HOUSE ACTION PLAN AND REVIEW OF OTHER MEMORIAL TREES AT THE THOMPSON HOUSE**

Dan provided a sketch of the Thompson House area (see attached) and noted that he had spoken with the Parks & Recreation Director regarding planting a memorial tree at that location. He added that the Parks & Recreation Director was supportive of that endeavor and will coordinate with Carl.

He explained that the historical society is also interested in the project and would like to help host the event.



Carl noted that Niki Delson, on behalf of the Down Valley Jewish Families and Friends, has raised \$950.00 for purchasing trees to be planted in celebration of the Jewish holiday commemorating the birth of trees.

Jo Anne suggested planning the Arbor Day event for Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, and all agreed that would be acceptable.

**TREE REPLACEMENT IN THE PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY**

Dan commented that the topic came up because the property owners where the large spruce tree blew down at 835 Sopris would like a replacement tree. He noted that the property is tricky because the yard's fence is located in the setback, and the replacement tree – while technically being located within the public right-of-way – will appear to be in the yard making it difficult to ensure the tree is properly irrigated. He reiterated the importance of irrigation and related that the

Town lost a good source of funding from the Colorado Tree Coalition because trees failed due to lack of water.

Jo Anne agreed and pointed out that even low water plants still need water to become established.

Dan emphasized the importance for overseeing this action and commended the Town arborist and Public Works Director for making sure the trees are watered.

Jo Anne asked if Carl had discussed this topic with the property owners who receive replacement trees.

Carl replied that some property owners are very willing to irrigate, but others aren't as committed.

Lisa pointed out that irrigation water might not be an infinite resource and wondered if some sort of agreement could be drafted between the Town and the property owners to ensure the trees get watered.

Jo Anne noted that the agreement would need to be held in perpetuity and run with the property.

Dan suggested Carl check with the Town Attorney regarding any legal ramifications.

Carl replied that his approach is to foster a relationship between the property owner and the tree.

#### **STATE FORESTER PRESENTATION ON URBAN FORESTS IN CARBONDALE**

Dan noted that Kamie Long (Colorado State Forest Service Urban and Community Forester) has approached Carl about doing a workshop or presentation and thought it might be tied to Arbor Day or Dandelion Days.

Carl added that she would also like to meet the members of the Tree Board.

Jo Anne suggested inviting her to the Arbor Day celebration and she could meet the Tree Board members at that event. She preferred Arbor Day because it is dedicated to trees.

Lisa suggested inviting the public and Kamie could do a question-and-answer session.

Carl replied that he will also invite her to attend the April Tree Board meeting virtually.

Dan pointed out that she could possibly do both a planting and pruning workshop at the Arbor Day celebration.

#### **DANDELION DAY INFORMATION BOOTH PLANNING**

Dan commented that last year's Dandelion Days was successful with the drawing and suggested a similar approach for this year's event.

Jo Anne suggested reaching out the last year's drawing recipients for follow-up photos.

Lisa asked if the same set-up from last year would be used.

Dan answered in the affirmative.

#### **CARL'S TREE REPORT**

Carl listed activities he has been working on including:

- Continued holiday lighting removal
- Tree removal completed at 191 Sopris in the r-o-w of two Siberian Elms under the powerline
- Contracted tree work to complete:

- o Recreation path behind the Orchard Church – two damaged Siberian Elms
- o 1968 CO-133 powerline conflict Siberian Elm to remove

#### Tree Risk Assessment

- Assessing two large Siberian Elms at 198 N. 7<sup>th</sup> Street
  - o One of the trees dropped a big branch(s) during the early snow event that caused vehicle damage
- Assessed a large Siberian Elm at 210 Garfield Avenue
  - o Determined to be a low-to-moderate risk, but no immediate removal needed
  - o Would like to remove within a year, if possible (because the tree is so old, it isn't worth putting a lot of money into to save)

#### Adopt-A-Flowerbed interest

- A lot of interest this year
- Volunteers for Gianinetti Park sign and Sopris Park Miners Memorial have agreed to continue their service
- Sopris Park flowerbeds around middle bridge has been adopted by the Bee Friendly Carbondale coalition
- Interest in the Colorado Meadows flowerbed
- Sopris Sun wants to run an article about the program and the downtown flowerpots in early April

#### Tree Planting

- Working to finalize tree planting sites and desired species
- Will begin planting in early May
- \$950 raised by Niki Delson of the Down Valley Jewish Families and Friends for use in purchasing trees to be planted in celebration of the Jewish holiday commemorating the birth of trees

#### Outreach/Education

- Carl and the technician attended the Tri-County pesticide workshop in Glenwood Springs
- Currently working on completing the proper training for the use of the herbicide Opensight (for use in the middle of the roundabout on the thistle)
- Was approached by the Sopris Sun to do an article about Carl and his role as the Town Arborist
- Attended virtually the Tree Diversity Conference hosted by the Denver Botanical Gardens
  - o Emphasized Carl's desire to take a closer look at the downtown trees and plan for the future
- Emphasized the benefits of big mulch rings

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The March 16, 2023, regular meeting adjourned at 7:14 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled on April 20, 2023 at 6:00 pm in Room 1 at Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,  
 Kari Bevevino DVM DACVIM  
 Carbondale Tree Board Member