

**MINUTES
TREE BOARD
March 17, 2022**

CALL TO ORDER

Lisa Paige called the in-person/virtual hybrid meeting to order at 6:10 pm on March 17, 2022, in Room 1 at Town Hall.

ROLL CALL

The following members were present for roll call:

Members Present: Lisa Paige, Chair
 Dan Bullock, Member
 Jo Anne Teeple, Member

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion Passed: Dan ***moved*** to approve the February 2022 Tree Board minutes. Jo Anne ***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 Tree Board.

ARBOR DAY

Dan reported that the Environmental Board is willing to allow the Tree Board to host a booth at Dandelion Days and suggesting having tree whips and the approved tree list available to hand out. He added that he had spoken with Mike Callas about planting a replacement memorial tree at Sopris Park and inviting local media outlets to cover the event. He pointed out that memorial tree plantings have been very successful Arbor Day events.

Carl noted that there have been conversations about replacing the Locust Tree in Sopris Park.

Dan commented that the Kay Brunnier Fund is available for memorial tree replacements. He thought it would be nice to do the replacement planting during Dandelion Days.

Carl thought it would be beneficial to do the planting during Dandelion Days. He also noted that he is working with the local 5th grade class, but so far hasn't seen a lot of interest.

Dan agreed to call Natalie Fuller (the Dandelion Days organizer) and offer to print the posters free of charge if the Tree Board can be listed on it.

Carl voiced concern about handing out tree whips unless recipients are provided with sufficient information about where and how to plant them correctly.

Dan commented that the tree whips would promote the backyard forestry concept.

Jo Anne asked who would host the booth because she works on Saturdays. She suggested doing either the booth or the replacement tree planting, but not both.

Marty agreed and commented that he would like to do the Dandelion Days booth well and follow that up with an Arbor Day planting a week or two later.

Carl noted there is another opportunity for an Arbor Day tree planting in the Colorado Meadows subdivision, as well.

Marty suggested paying people to remove Siberian Elms.

Dan replied that Siberian Elms are endemic to the area, and it would be at least 60 years before a new tree would reach the same height and the only other tree that could reach that same stature is a cottonwood.

Jo Anne suggested offering an “elm seed bounty.”

Dan pointed out that there are more Blue Spruce in the Town of Carbondale than elms and the spruce tend to be more problematic. He pointed out that the elms do tend to take up more of the pruning budget, but it is primarily because they are older and need more care.

Lisa added that the elms are also home to many bird species.

Dan reiterated that there would be a captive audience if the tree planting was completed during Dandelion Days.

UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT CODE UPDATE

Jo Anne commented that she had spoken with the Planning Director about adding a landscape architect requirement for large project proposals and the use of bubblers instead of drip irrigation to optimize tree survival. She related that the Planning Director indicated that there is an avenue to make those changes.

Dan suggested obtaining the text for landscape requirements in the Unified Development Code and redline them. He emphasized the importance of including the Tree Ordinance in that document, as well. He added that he would like to see the landscaping done after building construction is complete to reduce the potential of having to replace trees.

Jo Anne was concerned that there wouldn't be any money left for landscaping if left to the end.

Marty assured her that there is an escrow account that is held until all requirements are satisfied.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE

Jo Anne related that she had submitted comments to the Planning and Zoning Commission regarding the Comprehensive Plan update and the fact that nothing about fire readiness or defensible space was included in the document. She added that during a meeting regarding the Comprehensive Plan update, Colin Quinn referenced the need for “native” plants and in response she forwarded four questions for Environmental Board members to answer (complete email text follows). She noted that although she acted as a private citizen, the usage of the term “native plants” is inappropriate.

Dan commented that the native plants in this area are primarily sagebrush. He thought trees have enhanced the environment.

Lisa appreciated Jo Anne's actions in pointing out verbiage and the use of terms for marketing purposes.

CARL'S TREE REPORT

Carl commented that he is excited to be the Town of Carbondale arborist. He related that he is close to completing the removal of the Christmas lights and is working towards a more complete knowledge of the Tree Ordinance and all the requirements. He noted that Aspen Tree Service will begin removal of trees underneath powerlines next week. He added that upcoming projects include tree planting, updating the tree inventory, replacing a portion of the garden at the Main Street and

Highway 133 roundabout due to an overwhelming number of weeds, adding new material to garden beds near Sopris Liquor and reviewing what can be done with the garden beds at the intersection of 8th and Main Street. Carl also would like to develop and “Adopt a Flower Bed” program in a few areas around the town.

Jo Anne suggested using KDNK to advertise for the “Adopt a Flower Bed” program but cautioned that it would be important to review any volunteers’ credentials and commitment.

Dan suggested using tree stewards to help with the inventory because it will lead to a greater understanding of the difference between the Town of Carbondale right-of-way and private property.

Lisa added that a potential source for both programs are second homeowners returning to the valley for the summer—they use Carbondale for a variety of activities and may have the time needed.

ADJOURNMENT

The March 17, 2022, regular meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled on April 21, 2022 at 6:00 pm.

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

Kae McDonald

From: Genevieve Villamizar <salt.dirt@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 7, 2022 12:55 PM
To: Colin Quinn
Cc: Kae McDonald; Teeple, JoAnne
Subject: Re: FW: questions for 3/7/23 eboard meeting

Hi, JoAnne~

Excellent, intelligent questions. As Colin responds, a town-wide conversation is ideal and more likely, an imperative. Stridency aside, there's so much to consider that it will make for a lively discussion. My thoughts below in bold.

Hi JoAnne. CC'ing Genevieve too. Good questions. I'm happy to have a conversation... and I think that is just what we need as a town. I think the tree board, EBoard, parks and rec, and local orgs, could come together to have a conversation, and create recommendations, to combine landscape design that is fit for this ecosystem, which can include some of the wonderful non-native ornamental species we have in town. I'm also curious how much water is lost to the ecosystem when native, or drought tolerant, species are used as compared to 'thirstier' species.

1. please define "native plant ". **To me, a native species is a species that evolved in, and is adapted to, the region and ecosystem it lives in. A couple things: 1) there are probably non-native (and non-invasive) species that are drought tolerant and can thrive in this region with little impact on the ecosystem 2) some locations in town may be more suitable for different types of plants than others. For example, many of our parks are irrigated and have several ornamental tree species that require irrigation or to live next to the ditch. I love our trees and think that is an acceptable use of water.... I am also curious how much water goes back into the ecosystem (as mentioned above).**

Scientists around the planet are looking at this very definition. With global warming and species collapse, flora species are migrating with the climate changes.

Below, you reference Plant Select. This program rocks, recognizing we needn't limit ourselves to solely native plants. My friend Scott Scogerboe is one of the plantsmen connected to Plant Select, CSU and the Denver Botanic Gardens traveling the world - Mongolia, South Africa, Siberia, and Mediterrean regions - to bring back plants to trial. Another friend, Lauren Springer, like David Salomon, has an eye for sports within species that they trial, cultivate and introduce to the trade. In terms of language for future landscape codes, in addition to "native plants," I hope to see terms like "regionally adaptive," "drought tolerant," "high steppe" and the like.

As well, I hope to see language emphasizing ecotypes and microclimates. For example, aspens are native, but they don't belong on the valley floor and to me, embody the kind of ignorance that drains our watersheds of unnecessary water. However, on east (and some north) aspects, they will thrive. So hard lines don't work.

Bringing "ecotypes" into the conversation, let's look at pinyons grown in different parts of the West originating from different soils at different elevations in relation to varying plant communities - all interconnected and interdependent.

I think advisory and/or mandatory codes have to be educational. While nowhere near garnering the respect of doctors, horticulturists operate at the same level as do some doctors-

we work in living systems of such variety and such intricacy, the average person could never begin to understand without some serious research. Moving forward, we must stop dumbing it down just so the average person can deal. Can you imagine if we expected such from doctors?

2. what is on your native plant list? how available are they in our local markets? I didn't have a specific list in mind, but there is a lot of info about native plants out there (some of which you pointed out). Not sure how available they are at local nurseries, etc., but could be an opportunity to work with local nurseries, landscape designers, etc.

What Colin writes, yes; natives and more regionally appropriate plants are an area of potential for local markets. In fact, I am starting a couple thousand native grass and forb species this spring, as no contract growers agreed to grow for me for an Old Snowmass project. I would love to see municipalities or businesses offer greenhouse space for lease. That's a pinch point for sure. If Carbondale had one for their parks, planters, public gardens, etc, it would be incredible what they could do to prepare our town landscapes for the inevitable.

3. how do these plants address: Good questions and worth considering! I'd add to those questions: 'how much water do the species we currently have take out of the ecosystem?'

- soil erosion? **There are appropriate plants for almost every situation. If we looked to function versus solely color or flowers, our built environments would look a lot more like the environments and landscapes that, ironically, drew us to the West in the first place. Many natives are stoloniferous or suckering, which holds soils and covers the ground, mitigating extreme temperature fluctuations and evaporation/drying of soils.**

- storm water retention? **See above. Also very cool is how the root systems of any plants increase precipitation percolation, recharging ground water, versus running off. Happy to chat any time, JoAnne, and thanks for engaging on behalf of the planet~**

4. are you familiar with the Plant Select program? **Nope, but googled it and looks cool!**

On Mon, Mar 7, 2022 at 10:42 AM Kae McDonald <kmcdonald@carbondaleco.net> wrote:

-----Original Message-----

From: jteeici@gmail.com <jteeici@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, March 7, 2022 10:41 AM

To: Kae McDonald <kmcdonald@carbondaleco.net>

Subject: questions for 3/7/23 eboard meeting

greetings.

as i am unable to attend your meeting in person i have the following questions.

colin quinn, a member of your board, opined at the 2/24/22 planning and zoning meeting that there was no native plant landscaping requirement listed in the draft comprehensive plan being considered.

1. please define "native plant "
2. what is on your native plant list? how available are they in our local markets?
3. how do these plants address:
 - soil erosion?
 - storm water retention?
4. are you familiar with the Plant Select program?

thank you.

