

**MINUTES
TREE BOARD
September 17, 2020**

CALL TO ORDER

Dan Bullock called the virtual meeting to order at 6:05 pm on September 17, 2020.

ROLL CALL

The following members were present for roll call:

Members Present: Dan Bullock, Chairperson
 Kim Bock, Member
 Jo Anne Teeple, Member
 Lisa Paige, Member

Town Staff Present: Mike Callas, Town Liaison
 Kae McDonald, Boards and Commissions Clerk

Guests & Observers: None Present

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion Passed: Dan ***moved*** to approve the August 2020 Tree Board minutes. Jo Anne ***seconded*** the motion, and it was ***unanimously approved***.

PERSONS PRESENT NOT ON THE AGENDA

Mike updated the Board members on action items from the August meeting:

- There was no public celebration scheduled for Arbor Day. In lieu of a formal celebration, Mike planted 7 trees at the North Face pickleball courts on Friday, September 11th.

RIVER VALLEY RANCH REQUEST TO REMOVE NINE COTTONWOOD TREES FROM ORCHARD PARK

Sterling Page, General Manager of River Valley Ranch, explained that there are nine cottonwoods next to Orchard Park playground that have reached the end of their lifespan. Out of an abundance of caution for the safety of the children and passers-by, River Valley Ranch would like to remove these cottonwoods and replace them with 18 new trees from the approved Town of Carbondale Tree list.

Mike asked if the playground equipment is all in the same area. Sterling replied that in the past, the playground equipment had been in several distinct areas, but with the new playground design all of the play elements have been combined into one area that is now ADA accessible.

Lisa asked if there was a possibility that the lindens might suffer from the same insect that is afflicting them on the Front Range. Mike replied that there haven't been any infestations yet. He went on to say that the western slope doesn't usually have a problem with the Japanese beetle, but he will watch for it.

Jo Anne asked if there was a possibility to utilize a Tilia Americana as a larger shade tree. She noted that the canopy forms at a higher level and is less susceptible to limb damage. Sterling replied that their plan is to spread the trees out, with the smaller trees along Crystal Canyon Road and the larger trees along Old Barn Road.

Mike added that he has met with Travis (he is responsible for maintaining the RVR landscape and trees), and he will work with the varieties available when they are ready to plant. He also noted that he did get a couple of phone calls from citizens concerned about the removal of the narrow-leaved cottonwoods. He let them know that their removal is a public safety issue, and the citizens were generally understanding.

Jo Anne noted that historically cottonwoods were removed from the entrance of River Valley Ranch for the same reasons.

Based on the discussion, the Tree Board were all in support of River Valley Ranch's request to remove the nine cottonwoods from the Orchard Park playground area. Mike will write-up a letter of approval and submit it to Sterling on Friday, September 18th.

DISCUSSION ABOUT INSTALLATION OF UNDERGROUND FIBER OPTIC CABLE/CONDUIT IN NEIGHBORHOODS WITHOUT OVERHEAD LINES AND THE POTENTIAL IMPACTS ON TREES

Dan opened the topic by noting that King purchased Cedar Networks and their plan is to install underground fiber optic cable anywhere in town where the overhead infrastructure is lacking. Mike explained that their proposal is to install the cable approximately 6 inches behind the curb using a three-foot diamond saw blade that cuts the trench and lays a ¾" conduit with 18 pencils behind it. Based on this location, it has the potential to impact the drip zone of many trees as well as cut irrigation line. The Town is requesting additional information before a decision can be reached.

Dan noted that in several neighborhoods, the right-of-way is limited to the street footprint and the property owners will need to be contacted for permission to trespass for the installation. Mike thought there might be a utility corridor right-of-way in those areas but agreed that the project has not been thoroughly vetted. He also noted that there have been previous incidents with contractors destroying irrigation lines.

Lisa relayed her recent experience with contractors who had a non-specific permit for digging close to a perceived property boundary and stressed that the Town of Carbondale needs to clearly mark the boundaries for all planned construction.

Kim asked whether any specifications had been outlined with which to fully identify tree conflicts. Mike indicated that they are still waiting for additional information and assured the board members that the project will be well thought out.

Dan identified the issues the board members would like to see resolved before the project is approved:

- Hold the contractors accountable for property damage and property owner contact;
- Identify the public right-of-way;
- Present specifications with clear identification of cable trench;
- Complete all line locates to capture the location of irrigation lines, trees, and other utilities.

STATUS OF GRANT FUNDING

To date, Mike has spent \$3,400 out of the \$6,000 grant. He has planted 20 new trees so far and is meeting with Sterling Page and Eric Brendlinger (Parks & Recreation Director) to identify locations to plant trees at Nuche Park. Mike also plans to replace several dead trees at Miners and Sopris Park, with the goal of wrapping up the tree planting by the end of September. Mike also noted that a second full-time arborist will begin on September 28th and they will begin work on the Red Hill revegetation plan in October.

SOPRIS SUN ARTICLE

Mike has spoken with Will Grandbois at the Sopris Sun and he will delay the planned article on the grant-funded tree planting until the trees have been planted/grant money spent.

MICHAELS TREE REPORT

Mike didn't have much to add to what had already been presented in the meeting.

Jo Anne asked if there was a plan to continue watering the trees until there was snow cover. Mike assured her that he is planning on it, and it will be helpful to have the second full-time person for these tasks.

ADJOURNMENT

Because Dan will be otherwise occupied through October, he asked if anyone objected to suspending the October meeting of the Tree Board, to which all assented.

The September 17, 2020, regular meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled on November 19, 2020 at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Kae McDonald