

**MINUTES
TREE BOARD
January 21, 2021**

CALL TO ORDER

Dan Bullock called the virtual meeting to order at 6:00 pm on January 21, 2021.

ROLL CALL

The following members were present for roll call:

Members Present: Dan Bullock, Chairperson
Zach Hendrix, Member
Jo Anne Teeple, Member
Lisa Paige, Member

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

Guests & Observers: Britni Johnson, Prospective Member

CONSENT AGENDA

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

PERSONS PRESENT NOT ON THE AGENDA

There was no one present, not on the agenda.

WELCOME ZACH HENDRIX TO THE TREE BOARD

On behalf of the Tree Board, Dan welcomed Zach as a member.

NEW MEMBER APPLICATION: BRITNI JOHNSON

RENEWING MEMBER APPLICATIONS: DAN BULLOCK, JO ANNE TEEPLE, AND LISA PAIGE

Britni introduced herself to the Tree Board.

Motion Passed: Zach moved to recommend to the Board of Trustees the approval of Britni Johnson as a Member on the Tree Board. Dan seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Dan Bullock, Jo Anne Teeple, and Lisa Paige all submitted their applications to renew their membership on the Tree Board.

RECOGNIZE KIM BOCK AND GABE RILEY FOR SERVICE TO THE TOWN OF CARBONDALE AND THE TREE BOARD

Dan asked that a memo be submitted to the Board of Trustees to recognize Kim Bock and Gabe Riley for their service to the Town of Carbondale and the Tree Board. Marty indicated it would most likely be on the February 9th agenda.

THOMPSON PARK PHASE 3 LANDSCAPE PLAN

Michael referred to the plan included in the packet for the Thompson Park Phase 3 Landscape Plan. He reminded the Tree Board members that when Phase 2 was reviewed in 2018, the trees planted along Lewis Lane were outside the Town's right-of-way because of buried utilities conflicts. Because this development has a Homeowners Association with strong covenants, Michael wants to be sure to convey that those trees are TOC property and the HOA is required to replace them if they are damaged or removed. He would like to carry that over to Phase 3 and 4, as well.

Zach asked if they are only required to replace the tree and wondered if the replacement choice shouldn't be subject to Tree Board review.

Britni asked about where the liability for tree replacement would fall, especially with a stringent HOA.

Dan replied that based on conversations with Janet Buck, the replacement requirement can become part of the covenants for the property and the trees must be replaced like-for-like. He thought it might be a good idea to doublecheck with Janet.

Marty suggested getting clarification from the TOC attorney and ensure that the responsibilities and liabilities are spelled out.

Specific to Phase 3, Dan noted that all the trees were located out of the public right-of-way along Jewel's Lane and wondered what the impetus was to move the trees onto the private property. He also noted that there are existing trees planted in the area that are not represented on the plans. Further, he would like to see more concordance with the plantings, rather than specifying the use of Honey Locusts when oaks are already growing in the area.

Mike pointed out that the oaks are outside the scale of the plans submitted.

Britni wondered if the trees were moved to eliminate a visibility conflict.

Dan pointed out that if the development followed code, then the trees should be in the public right-of-way and if they are moved outside of that area it should be specified on the plans.

Lisa added that if the mission of the Tree Board is to consider landscape aesthetics, the board members should also consider the trees planted outside the submitted plans.

Mike reiterated that the existing trees are outside the scope of consideration. He did agree that he would like to see more diversity in the tree selection. Based on his interpretation of the plans, the Honey Locusts are planted right on the boundary between the public right-of-way and private property. He would like to see the shrubs planted in the right-of-way moved to eliminate line-of-sight conflicts. His biggest concern, however, is that the plantings in the right-of-way will add to his workload and he would really like to shift that burden to the Homeowners Association.

Zach noted that there are two off-street parking places situated within a large landscaped area. He suggested reversing the layout to improve line-of-sight issues and allowing a larger public space for tree plantings and less grass.

Jo Anne pointed out that no irrigation plans are specified. She also noted a conflict with the Blue Spruce planted close to the bike path—eventually the tree roots will buckle the path.

Britni noted that some of the shrub choices have the potential to grow quite large and suggested swapping some of them for dwarf varieties.

Mike agreed—he thought that dwarf varieties are better suited for the right-of-way. He added that the UDC doesn't specify what types of plants, but only that 85% of the public right-of-way must be cultivated landscape.

Dan also pointed out that the Blue Spruce proposed to be planted next to the bike path will keep the path shaded and with the potential for ice build-up in the winter. He would recommend eliminating the choice of Blue Spruce from the proposed plans.

Britni added that that is also a tight space for that many trees. She also felt like it was a "cookie-cutter" planting with not a lot of thought into the choices and arrangement.

Lisa agreed and predicted that it will be a maintenance nightmare in a few years.

Dan pointed out that there are a lot of Honey Locust in the area and preferred to see a different choice for a large stature tree. He also pointed out that the arrangement of the Blue Spruce appears to be an attempt to screen the view, which is not allowed in the UDC.

Zach agreed with Britni that the proposed plan is poorly designed. He reiterated his concern that any trees replaced must be approved by the Tree Board.

Dan said that he would bring the topic up with Janet Buck and the Town Attorney.

Jo Anne reiterated her concern about the Blue Spruce and added that the plantings should be reviewed with defensible space/fire mitigation in mind.

Based on the discussion, the following points of concern were listed for the proposed Thompson Park Phase 3 Landscape Plan:

- 1) Confirm why the trees are planted so close to the boundary between the public right-of-way/private space;
- 2) The stated use of a contact herbicide will need to be referred to the Environmental Board;
- 3) Increase the diversity of trees selected, preferably with some concordance with trees planted outside the proposed plan;
- 4) Reverse the parking spaces near A2/A3/A1;
- 5) Specify an irrigation system for the public right-of-way;
- 6) Swap shrubs specified in planting strip for dwarf varieties;
- 7) Eliminate the Blue Spruce and consider the planting arrangement for defensible space;
- 8) Ensure that the trees are not being used to screen the property;
- 9) Replace the cobble with either plant material or organic mulch;
- 10) Explore the liability issue with Janet Buck and the TOC Attorney.

Motion Passed: Zach *moved to approve* the plan provided the list of concerns is addressed. Jo Anne *seconded the motion*, and it was unanimously approved

MICHAEL'S TREE REPORT

Mike reported that the Linden on Main Street in front of the Friendship Park was removed. He is developing a plan for upcoming tree work in 2021 which will include the replacement of 4 or 5 trees along Main Street. The three trees in front of the Recreation Center and one across the street have a fungal infection and will also be removed.

ADJOURNMENT

The January 21, 2021, regular meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled on February 18, 2021 at 6:00 pm.

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