

**MINUTES
TREE BOARD
February 18, 2021**

CALL TO ORDER

Dan Bullock called the virtual meeting to order at 6:00 pm on February 18, 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
 Britni Johnson, Member

Town Staff Present: Mike Callas, 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 January 2021 Tree Board minutes. Lisa ***seconded*** the motion, and it was ***unanimously approved***.

PERSONS PRESENT NOT ON THE AGENDA

Marty announced that Britni was approved as a Tree Board member and Dan, Jo Anne, and Lisa were all reappointed. He added that Kim and Gabe were also acknowledged for their service.

REVIEW/REVISE RECOMMENDED STREET TREE LIST

Dan noted that maintaining the Street Tree List is codified in the Carbondale Municipal Code. It is a “living” list that can be updated at Mike’s discretion with input from the Tree Board and the Public Works Director. Dan noted that there are no evergreens listed and that no spruce, pine, or fir trees should be planted in the right-of-way. He also noted that while all the trees on the list can be used as street trees, the small trees have not been designated as such. In addition, the small trees (except multi-stemmed trees such as the Amur Maple) are the only ones appropriate for planting under powerlines and they should be designated as such.

Mike added that the Unified Development Code dictates tree spacing and what is planted in the right-of-way. He would prefer that messy trees such as crabapples and chokecherries aren’t planted in the right-of-way.

Dan concurred that no fruiting trees should be planted in the right-of-way.

Zach asked if it was preferred that larger trees be planted unless there is a powerline in the way. He added that communication with property owners needs to be as clear as possible before plans are submitted so they don’t have to spend a lot of money to change plans.

Jo Anne suggested that shade and ornamental trees be identified.

Mike agreed to update the list and present it for approval at the next meeting. Once the list has been approved, he will update the website.

REVIEW/RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SPRUCE TREE REMOVAL IN PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY AT THE SPRUCE BUILDING (2ND AND MAIN)

Mike announced that the 70' spruce tree at 2nd and Main has been declining over the last few years and will need to be removed. He added that the Spruce Building was built around 2001 and the building was constructed around the tree. The decline is probably due to construction damage, lack of water and root compaction from the parking spaces and he has tried to prune it and administer growth stimulants with little success. Mike would like input from the Tree Board members on whether to choose a deciduous tree or an evergreen in a container as a replacement.

Dan remembered that the Tree Board had reviewed the initial proposal in 2000 or 2001 but couldn't find the minutes. In his recollection, the Board at that time was concerned about the impacts of parking on top of the root ball and irrigation was a required. He thought what has happened to the tree is a good example of how trees can be compromised by construction and other activities. He also pointed out that there will be additional street redevelopment over the next six to nine months because it is the main access to the new senior housing development.

Mike added that the space is set up to accommodate a nice shade tree. He suggested adding a four-foot root barrier at the edge of the road.

Jo Anne suggested waiting to remove the tree until after the upcoming nesting season. She also preferred a deciduous tree. She compared the fate of this spruce tree to what will happen to the spruce tree at Main and Wendt when the Forest Service moves forward with their construction plans.

Lisa also preferred a deciduous tree and pointed out that the street will need to be wide enough to accommodate emergency vehicles. She asked if the height of the building would influence the type of tree selected.

Mike responded that the area has good solar exposure until midafternoon and this would help a deciduous tree get established. He would like to push for planting a larger (4") tree.

Jo Anne suggested placing a barrier between the parking spaces and the tree to keep it from being hit.

Zach supported a deciduous tree and thought it would be a more permanent solution. He added that a deciduous tree will also provide shade for the building in the summer and allow for solar gain in the winter.

Britni wondered if they could start out with a container tree until the street construction is completed.

Mike thought it would be feasible to wait until 2022 to plant the new tree—possibly as an Arbor Day project. He also thought that the configuration of parking spaces could be altered by a TOC decision—the current ruling just prohibits the seven public spaces from being converted into private spaces.

Jo Anne asked what the irrigation scenario would be like.

Mike responded that there is irrigation infrastructure in place, they will just have to replace the lines. He acknowledged that the existing root ball will have to be excavated and soil added before planting a new tree. He added that even though the tree looks bad, it is still putting out new growth every year, but if the tree becomes a hazard the removal process can occur more quickly.

DISCUSS/RECOMMEND PROCEDURES FOR TOWN RECEIVING CERTIFIED LANDSCAPE PLANS AND TOWN REGISTERING CERTIFIED LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

Dan noted that the TOC Planning Department has been receiving plans that have not been completed by certified landscape companies. He suggested developing a set of protocols to remedy the situation.

Lisa asked if this was a national credential.

Mike responded that it is a state credential. He noted that a certified landscape architect would stamp plans in a similar way as a professional engineer. He noted that what is currently lacking is an understanding of subdivision planning and how to integrate the landscape.

Zach suggested requiring a license to work in Carbondale and that submitting their credentials would be part of the licensing process. He would like to see the process streamlined on the TOC licensing side.

Lisa thought that there should be some way to ensure that the process isn't difficult.

Dan added that the developer hires personnel, so they need to understand what the TOC expects. He went on to say that Planning staff provides the tree planting standards, the tree list, and the tree protection standards to them and they need to also inform developers of the requirement. He also pointed out that these standards are specifically for plantings in the public right-of-way and parking lots.

Mike added that this requirement would apply primarily to new developments where the ground surface is being altered.

Zach wants to make sure there are no unintended consequences if the requirement is codified.

Britni wondered if the requirement could be based on square footage or if there could be a variance option.

Dan responded that the purpose of the upcoming changes to the Unified Development Code (UDC) was to limit variances.

Marty suggested that exclusions—single family dwellings, for example—might fare better than a variance.

MICHAEL'S TREE REPORT

Michael reported that he has been taking down Christmas lights and completing winter pruning. He noted that there hasn't been a significant number of downed limbs this year because he has been able to keep up with deadwood pruning.

Jo Anne asked if there are plans for Arbor Day.

Mike responded that he is watching the guidelines and will see what happens. He noted that Tree City U.S.A. has waived the public celebration requirement for 2021 and suggested adding this as an agenda item for next month's meeting.

Jo Anne suggested documenting what has happened to the spruce tree at 2nd and Main so there is a record.

Lisa suggested submitting an article to the *Sopris Sun* to educate the public.

ADJOURNMENT

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

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