

**MINUTES
TREE BOARD
March 18, 2021**

CALL TO ORDER

Lisa Paige called the virtual meeting to order at 6:05 pm on March 18, 2021.

ROLL CALL

The following members were present for roll call:

Members Present: Jo Anne Teeple, Member
 Lisa Paige, Member
 Britni Johnson, Member

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion Passed: Lisa ***moved*** to approve the February 2021 Tree Board minutes. Britni ***seconded*** the motion, and it was ***unanimously approved***.

PERSONS PRESENT NOT ON THE AGENDA

There was no one present, not on the agenda, to address the Tree Board.

REVIEW UPDATED STREET TREE LIST AND GUIDELINES

Mike noted that no new species were added to the list and that Conifers were added to the prohibited tree list. He added that most of the changes were to the small tree list. Mike informed the board members that once the tree list and planting and maintenance guide is approved, the existing copy will be replaced on the Tree Board webpage and information packets will be made available to developers through the Planning Department.

Britni noted that the list was much clearer.

Lisa appreciated the fact that “cheap” trees are on the prohibited list. She also asked if there was value in distributing the information to Homeowners Associations or local nurseries.

Mike responded that the list will be available to any property owner that proposed changes to the landscape within the public right-of-way. He didn’t think it was necessary to distribute the list to local nurseries because they only sell species that will grow in this environment. He added that he will be involved anytime something is planted in the right-of-way, so he will be able to guide the property owners to the correct information.

Jo Anne suggested creating a demonstration garden so property owners can get a sense of what the different trees look like. She also expressed curiosity over how something new—like the Liberty Elm that was just selected as the Tree-of-the-Month in Boulder—might be handled.

Mike was supportive of the demonstration garden and noted that he has planted some new species that have not yet been added to the tree list.

Lisa suggested publicizing the list once it is approved—she supports educating community members about what species do well here.

Mike noted that with the planting and maintenance guidelines, he was very deliberate in walking through the process and also updated the watering guidelines. He added that the Colorado State

Forest Service website is a comprehensive resource, especially for those that are not arborists or landscape designers.

Jo Anne suggested that one incentive might be to note Mike's availability for consultations on the Tree Board webpage.

Motion Passed: Britni ***moved*** to approve the Tree List and Planting and Maintenance Guidelines with minor corrections in the use of Latin uppercase for genus and lower case for species. Jo Anne ***seconded*** the motion, and it was ***unanimously approved***.

REVIEW ANB BANK LANDSCAPE PROPOSAL

Mike noted that the final ANB Bank landscape proposal will need to incorporate requested changes. He also pointed out that while there is room for 18 trees, because there are utilities conflicts and a narrow planting area the Planning and Zoning Commission approved their request to move the trees out of the public right-of-way and onto private property. He added that he was conflicted about this approval because while it relieves him of the maintenance responsibility, it also eliminates his control over how the trees are taken care of.

Britni noted that there is a lot of turf in the proposed landscape design.

Mike pointed out that it will primarily be native grasslands.

Lisa wondered why they would plan for that much turf when it doesn't match the local environment.

Britni responded that it could be aesthetics and was supportive of having a lawn in front of the bank. She is interested to see how mindful they will be with water use.

Lisa doubted that it will remain the lush, green turf they envision.

Jo Anne noted that that is the only pedestrian passageway in that area and the sod will absorb the water—especially from melting snow and ice—and that it will more readily recover from snowplowing or trucks driving over it than a graveled area. She thought that the judicious use of lawn along sidewalks and paths is helpful for pedestrians navigating the area in the winter. She also suggested developing mowing guidelines for the public right-of-way.

Britni wondered if more trees could be added in the right-of-way.

Mike said that he had requested additional trees be planted in the right-of-way, but the request was turned down—at least on Lot 1. He would like to propose five new shade trees in the right-of-way for Lot 2. He was also appreciative that their proposal included a more diverse tree list than other plans reviewed lately.

Jo Anne added that the trees will also grow better in a sodded area.

Britni pointed out that the sod will also help reduce the heat island effect.

Jo Anne asked how the landscape will be irrigated. She expressed concern with the use of drip irrigation because it requires so much maintenance and can be easily damaged. She asked how the property owners will guarantee that the tree inventory remains sound.

Mike noted that he currently recommends bubblers over emitters because they are easier to maintain and if they are installed in a ring around the drip zone, they water a larger surface area and can easily be checked for functionality.

Britni suggested creating a document for watering best practices.

Mike agreed and thought it would be a good addition to the planting guidelines. He anticipates a big shift in water conservation and efficiency over the next few years.

Jo Anne prefers to see the bubblers installed site-wide. She reiterated her desire for clarification on how the trees remain under TOC jurisdiction and to memorialize standards of care.

Mike noted that the project has already been approved, but the Tree Board can request the following conditions:

- Memorialize standards of care for those 18 trees that will be planted on private property rather than the public right-of-way,
- Clarify how those same 18 trees will remain under TOC jurisdiction,
- Request that five additional shade trees be planted in the public right-of-way along Lot 2,
- Use bubblers rather than emitters across the landscape plan and create a watering best practices document.

Motion Passed: Lisa *moved* to approve the ANB Bank Landscape Proposal as discussed and with the conditions as outlined. Britni *seconded* the motion, and it was *unanimously approved*.

CONTINUE DISCUSSION REGARDING REGISTERED LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS VS LANDSCAPE DESIGNERS

Mike wanted to continue the discussion about registered landscape architects versus landscape designers primarily because he wanted to respond to Zach's comment at the last meeting regarding the burden on small property owners. He indicated that that was not his intent and pointed out that he is available for consultation if there are questions about planting in the right-of-way. His intent was to require a landscape architect for larger developments so they could oversee the entire plan of work and stamp the plans submitted with the building permit. He noted that if a homeowner is reconfiguring his landscape, a landscape designer would be adequate.

Lisa agreed with Mike's philosophy and asked for clarification on the Tree Board's role in this process.

Mike noted that the Tree Board is an advisory board, and it would be up to the Planning Department to determine when they would require a stamped plan. He added that if anything is proposed for the public right-of-way, he is informed.

Jo Anne also reminded the board members that their only responsibility is for what is planted in the public right-of-way.

Mike will talk with Janet Buck and Jay Harrington to see whether they feel like this is a process that should be pursued.

Lisa added that the Tree Board gives their full support to requiring a Landscape Architect when necessary.

SPRUCE TREE REMOVAL AT 2ND AND MAIN UPDATE

Mike has spoken with a local tree service and a target date for the tree removal is mid-July. This will be a good time for the birds that nest in the tree and will be timed with other work that will occur in Sopris Park before Mountain Fair. He is planning on some type of PR campaign to explain why the tree must be removed.

Lisa added that she took a photo with cars parked right up against the tree and volunteered it for Mike's use.

MICHAEL'S TREE REPORT

Mike noted that the Christmas lights have been removed and they are continuing winter pruning as needed.

He added that at the request of Public Works, River Valley Ranch contracted to have 1,000 trees pruned (the trees are in the TOC public right-of-way but are RVR's responsibility) and the trees were all pruned incorrectly. Mike didn't know if much could be done at this point because there is no code violation; it was just done out of ignorance. Mike thought that there may be a possibility that contractor's doing work at that level will have to be approved in the future with the added requirement that the owner of the company is an arborist. He wanted to apprise the Tree Board of the situation in case it comes up for further discussion.

Mike also noted that public celebrations are still not being required for Arbor Day. He hopes to have some thoughts about what might be done at the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The March 18, 2021, regular meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled on April 15, 2021 at 6:00 pm.

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