

**MINUTES  
TREE BOARD  
August 20, 2020**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Dan Bullock called the virtual meeting to order at 6:00 pm on August 20, 2020.

**ROLL CALL**

The following members were present for roll call:

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

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

Guests & Observers:    None Present

**CONSENT AGENDA**

***Motion Passed:*** Joanne ***moved*** to approve the July 2020 Tree Board minutes. Kim ***seconded*** the motion, and it was ***unanimously approved***.

**PERSONS PRESENT NOT ON THE AGENDA**

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

- Mike has been in contact with the RVR landscape maintenance personnel and the irrigation at Nuche Park has been repaired and is running. Mike will look at replanting trees and will coordinate with the Parks Department because they are planning on fencing off areas to limit where people can park. The suggestion was also made to obtain a written agreement with RVR to keep the irrigation functioning;
- Mike checked with Eric Brendlinger regarding the planned locations of the bleachers at the new pickleball courts, and that location is compatible with the tree placement as discussed during the July site visit.
- A socially-distant Arbor Day celebration is scheduled for Saturday, September 12<sup>th</sup>. The mayor already signed the proclamation in the spring, but Mike is considering asking for an updated version if a more formal celebration can be held on the 12<sup>th</sup>.

Dan added that he has had a conversation with John Leybourne concerning the Dolores Way Industrial PUD. They are working to find a solution that satisfies the PUD requirements without removing mature landscaping or putting an unwanted burden on business owners along that corridor. Dan plans to follow-up with the Planning and Zoning Commission, as well.

Marty informed the board members that the BOT reviewed the town's financials, and the town is currently in good shape. The BOT was also apprised of the fact that water consumption is a high priority and the community may need to implement water conservation measures.

**EASTWOOD 133/SELF STORAGE LANDSCAPE REVIEW**

Mike opened the review of the Eastwood 133 landscape design by commenting that it is a good plan from the perspective of water conservation—there are a lot of native grasses and the other plants will be on a drip irrigation system. He then read through Lisa's comments submitted to him via email:

- Lisa noticed there were quite a few shade trees located under the high-tension wires. Even though the wires are 50 to 70 feet high, she was concerned that the trees might be in danger of being topped once they reach a mature height;
- Lisa asked if the town would assume maintenance of the landscaping once it is installed;

- Lisa noted the variety of trees, and wondered what the average age of each species was;
- Lisa also asked if it was only storage or if there were also residential units. Mike clarified that there would be a single residence for the storage unit manager.

Kim listed her comments:

- Kim observed that the landscape plans call for backfilling with soil and Pro-mix. She pointed out that plants have a better rate of survival using native soil only;
- Kim also noted that the landscape plans call for a weed barrier under the gravel. She is concerned that the weed barrier will negatively affect the tree root zones, and would prefer no weed barrier;
- Kim would prefer an even greater diversity of trees;
- Kim also noted that the electric substation is subjected to herbicides to achieve bare-grounding within the facility. Historically, the herbicides have leached out and killed trees along the border of the substation, and she is concerned that the trees placed along the south side of the proposed development will also be subjected to that same toxic leaching;
- Kim also asked whether the trees would be planted at grade level or elevated.

Dan listed his comments:

- Dan pointed out that coniferous trees should not be planted in the right-of-way;
- He also thought the site was over-landscaped and would like to see fewer plantings in front of the murals;
- He felt like the Honey Locusts planted next to the entrance driveway may block the view of oncoming pedestrians and cyclists on the trail;
- He would like to see the trees moved away from the trail to prevent ice build-up during the winter;
- He pointed out that the plans state that they are using landscaping for screening, which may not be allowed in the Unified Development Code;
- He would like to see materials other than crushed granite on weave fabric used in the planting areas;
- He would like to see the trees grouped together, rather than spread out.

Joanne's comments included:

- She would prefer to see a coniferous species other than a Blue Spruce planted;
- She suggested requiring a soil assay test to make sure the soil isn't already toxic along the boundary with the substation;
- She also suggested using planting boxes with non-transmissible barriers to protect the trees along the substation border.

Mike's comments included:

- Clarify whether the eleven spaces on the north side of the property are to be used as parking spaces or for landscaping;
- Ensure that the drip irrigation is regularly maintained.

The following are the major points of the Eastwood 133 landscape review:

- 1) Shade trees under high tension wires.
- 2) Will the TOC assume maintenance of the landscape plan?
- 3) Concern about backfilling with soil and pro-mix. Native soil produces better results over the long term.
- 4) Is there a weed barrier under the gravel? This will impact the root zone of trees, prefer no barrier.
- 5) Possibly diversify the tree varieties. Eliminate the Blue Spruce and substitute less water-intensive conifers.
- 6) The electric substation is treated with heavy-duty chemicals for bare-grounding, and it has leached out and killed other trees. Perform a soil assay test along that border to understand the toxicity levels of the soil, move trees/landscaping out of that zone or plant in barrier boxes.

- 7) Coniferous trees are not allowed to be planted in ROW.
- 8) Site may be over-landscaped.
- 9) Move Honey Locusts at entrance driveway to prevent a line of sight conflict between entrance driveway and bike path.
- 10) The trees are placed too close to the path and may shade the path in the winter causing ice build-up or drop pods onto the path. Consider moving the trees away from the path.
- 11) Doublecheck the language in the UDC concerning the use of trees for screening. Follow-up with developers on language/purpose.
- 12) Possibly eliminate or reduce the amount of crushed granite on weave fabric—the site will be hot and native grasses may be a possible substitute to reduce the heat retention.
- 13) Clarify whether it is landscaping or parking spaces on the north side of the parking lot.

### **MICHAEL'S TREE REPORT/DESIGN REVIEW**

Arbor Day Celebration is planned for Saturday, September 12<sup>th</sup>.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The August 20, 2020, regular meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled on September 17, 2020 at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kae McDonald