

**MINUTES
TREE BOARD
November 17, 2022**

CALL TO ORDER

Lisa Paige called the in-person meeting to order at 6:04 pm on November 17, 2022, in Room 1 at Town Hall.

ROLL CALL

The following members were present for roll call:

Members Present: Lisa Paige, Chair
 Dan Bullock, Member
 Kari Bevevino, Member

Town Staff Present: Carl Meinecke, Town of Carbondale Staff Liaison
 Kae McDonald, Boards and Commissions Clerk

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion Passed: Dan ***moved*** to approve the October 20, 2022 meeting minutes. Kari ***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.

UPCOMING CHECK-IN WITH THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Carl explained that the Tree Board is scheduled to meet with the Board of Trustees for a “check-in” on December 13th if that date is compatible with board members’ schedules.

Lisa committed to reviewing the past years’ minutes to extract items of interest.

Dan suggested presenting the revised Tree Ordinance for approval. He thought it important that the Board of Trustees understands that all departments initiating projects involving the Town’s right-of-way should present those plans to the Tree Board for review.

Lisa suggested introducing the Tree Board by leading with recent notable achievements followed by examples of engagement and areas for improvement.

Dan thought it was important to point out the state of the trees along Main Street with the suggestion to involve other boards and commissions and local businesses to make Main Street sidewalks easier to navigate. He also suggested another positive point was that Carl was able to work with the City Market developer to replace the 18 trees that haven’t thrived.

Lisa commented that the landscape in the vicinity of the 1201 Main Street development as well as the wildflower zones along Highway 133 are also not thriving.

Carl agreed, noting that the wildflowers haven’t worked, and the weeds are taking over. He pointed out that many of the developments share the same challenges and would like to gain consensus among all the stakeholders again.

Dan explained that the Department of Transportation right-of-way is a minimum of 15 feet along the highway and safety is a big consideration for any kind of landscaping along that corridor. He noted that the Town of Carbondale took over the maintenance of the green strips to limit any spraying for weeds within the town limits.

Carl wondered if the Tree Board could make some recommendations.

Lisa noted that many of the landscape installations from the 1990s and 2000s are beginning to age and may need to be updated.

Dan commented that the Main Street landscaping wasn't well-planned or well-executed. He suggested moving the light poles and trees to bulb-outs and thought that if it is planned well, it will have a minimal effect on the number of parking spaces available. He pointed out that the trees on Main Street should look like the trees planted in front of Town Hall.

Carl agreed that the trees along Main Street are not in great condition. He also thought that the landscaping in the center of the roundabout may need to be redesigned.

CARL'S TREE REPORT

Carl listed activities he has been working on including:

- Many of the trees still had their leaves during the early October snow and a lot of trees suffered damage as a result.
 - A tree at 2nd and Euclid fell out of private property into the road.
 - A Town tree near the library suffered broken limbs.
 - Several trees in Sopris Park had hangers.
 - Most of the damaged trees were in the Historic Commercial Core and Old Town Residential areas.
 - Aspen Tree Service was able to send a crew to help with the big jobs and the Town's Public Works Department picked up what Carl was able to cut down.
 - As a result of the damage, Carl has been getting a lot of requests for tree assessments. This activity is taking up a good portion of his time and he still has a big list from the summer to work on.
- The dead wood was pruned out the tree next to the Village Smithy.
- He has been working on the holiday lighting and planted small spruce trees in the downtown pots. He hopes he can plant those trees somewhere after winter.
- A landscape assistant has been hired. Carl is training her now and thinks she will be an asset.
- Carl is planning several activities for winter including a review/update of Carbondale's tree inventory and developing a Siberian Elm maintenance plan. He commented that he is working on a plan that could involve the Tree Board to help with the tree inventory and the Siberian Elm maintenance program might be a big educational opportunity.

Lisa wondered if the tree damage from the snowstorm might present an educational moment. She suggested a short article in the Sopris Sun about the costs and consequences of early snowfall.

Dan thought it important to point out the effort the Town has made to prune trees.

Kari suggested contacting the Town of Carbondale's Public Information Officer to post that same information on the Town's Facebook page.

Dan explained that a backyard forestry program would encourage property owners to plant trees in their yards instead of the Town right-of-way.

Dan suggested that the December 13th Board of Trustees check-in function as their December meeting and meet as a Board again in January. All members that were present agreed with the suggestion.

ADJOURNMENT

The November 17, 2022, regular meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled on January 19, 2022 at 6:00 pm in Room 1 at Town Hall.

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