

**MINUTES
TREE BOARD
September 15, 2022**

CALL TO ORDER

Lisa Paige called the in-person/virtual hybrid meeting to order at 6:04 pm on September 15, 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
 Jo Anne Teeple, 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 July 2022 Tree Board minutes with corrections made to pages 7 and 8. Jo Anne ***seconded*** the motion, and it was ***unanimously approved***.

PERSONS PRESENT NOT ON THE AGENDA

There were no persons present not on the agenda to address the Tree Board.

REVIEW OF CODE REGARDING TREES/TREE ISSUES OBSERVED AROUND TOWN

Jo Anne pointed out that the roots of the elm trees that were next to the shed at the 4th and Main Street park were damaged during the shed demolition and the elm trees need to be removed as soon as possible to avoid any liability during a public event.

Dan gave a brief history of efforts to incorporate tree protections into the Unified Development Code. He commented that the Town falls short on the enforcement as well as informing applicants of responsibility. He related a recent experience where he observed a construction site that had no protections around a tree but once he stopped and explained the requirements, they had complied by the time Carl arrived to check out the situation.

Carl explained that he plans to update the Tree Protection Standards to include a checklist on the back page.

Dan proceeded to highlight updates that can be found in the current UDC. He reiterated past conversations regarding having contractors wait until after construction is completed to install the landscaping.

Jo Anne noted that she observed a tree in the northwest corner of the Main Street Marketplace construction site with irrigation tubing leading to it that wasn't protected. She added that there should be a provision that if the landscape is installed before construction is finished, everything should be water by hand.

Carl related that he has been looking at the trees in the City Market development and they will be replaced by the developer – they tried to water by hand after the irrigation had stopped, but the trees still died. He noted that trees must survive for one year to satisfy the Town's requirement.

Lisa asked if it was possible to require more oversight if trees have to be replaced more than one time.

Carl replied that it is their best interest to address any irrigation problems, so the trees don't die.

Marty asked if it was possible to guide them, so they have the best likelihood of success.

Jo Anne stated that that makes the case for bubblers – you can see whether they are working or not -- but commented that they will still need to water in the winter.

Dan suggested tying the enforcement mechanism to the Certificate of Occupancy.

Marty explained that 10% of escrow is held in reserve at the issuance of the CO to ensure that trees survive, among other things. He noted that regarding screening, the outdoor areas of the lumberyard will have to be screened.

Dan added that landscaping doesn't qualify for screening. He added that Carl had to remove the Mugo pines in front of the Forest Service office to fulfill the requirements for a sight triangle down Main Street.

Lisa asked if the property in front of the Post Office is federal land and not subject to the Town requirements.

Carl confirmed that this area is outside the Town's jurisdiction.

Marty explained that the Post Office contracts with a property management company for snow removal and landscaping, but most of the focus is on the back lot.

Jo Anne noted that the trail along the west side of Highway 133 is being encroached by narrow leaf cottonwood, willows, and elm trees, making it difficult for people to pass or ride side-by-side. She also noted the growth of noxious weeds on the saved earth piles at the Main Street Marketplace construction site and on the other vacant lot in that vicinity.

Dan thought the board members should feel good about the progress that has been made regarding budget for tree maintenance and what is in the UDC regarding trees.

Carl commented that he met with other arborists working in the Roaring Fork Valley and the issues are similar up and down the valley regarding trees and development.

Jo Anne asked what happens when a property is sold pre- or mid-development.

Marty replied that they must honor all agreements and escrow must be posted. He noted that, conversely, the Town must honor the terms of any agreements, as well.

SUGGESTIONS OF POSSIBLE TOWN TREE

Dan related that he had been approached by the Environmental Board regarding the selection of a town tree. He noted that since there were few, if any, trees here when Carbondale was settled, most of the trees were brought here from somewhere else. He also pointed out that the plant on Carbondale's logo is a potato.

Lisa suggested that Dan ask the Environmental Board to nominate the tree and to be part of the decision-making process.

CARL'S TREE REPORT

Carl listed activities he and his assistant have been working on including:

- Completed a tree maintenance plan for street trees in the Old Town area.
- He plans to assess the parks and other parts of town soon.
- He noted a successful tree protection during the 8th Street project.

- He had the Extension Service test the soil in the planters in front of the Recreation Center to investigate why two sets of trees have died there. He plans to replant that area next spring.
- He coordinated a difficult Siberian Elm tree removal under the powerline at 8th and Euclid.
- He asked for input on the Highway 133 corridor planting strip.

Marty suggested a concerted effort to work with the developers that might win the contract for the recently acquired Town property next to Thunder River Theater Company. To that end, he will invite the Town Manager and recently hired Planning Director to the October 20th meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The September 15, 2022, regular meeting adjourned at 7:18 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled on October 20, 2022 at 6:00 pm in Room 1 at Town Hall.

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