

Town of Lyons Ecology Advisory Board Meeting Notes

March 16, 2016

Present: Steve Simms, Greg Lowell, Kurt Carlson, Fay Marshall; Connie Sullivan (BOT); Mike Harris (Parks & Rec); Coco Gordon (SFC)

Simms began meeting at 6:36 p.m.

Motion: To approve meeting notes of February 2016; Marshall made motion; Lowell second; all aye. Meeting notes accepted.

River Restoration Update. Julie Ash and Luke Swan from Otak presented an update on the progress of river restoration through town.

The March 31 FEMA deadline has been modified; the revegetation will be held off until after run-off and Reach 2 (below 2nd Ave. Bridge) work has an extended deadline of April 15.

Revegetation will include willows and some fabric and seeding before run-off but rest will occur sometime in June. There will be irrigation installed to kick-start plantings; will be used for 2 years, and then system will be owned by town. They will be using water from the river and are working the issue of water rights to pull from river at this time. Simms asked to be kept apprised of the water rights issue.

Reaches 3 and 1 on the North St. Vrain are done; Reach 4 analysis being performed (for later use in Bohn Park reconstruction). Reach 2 work underway.

Flywater is in charge of the biological restoration. Swan and Ash explained the use of rocks and other structures in creating pools and riffles in the river. Swan detailed how tree wads and log deflectors are employed, especially on the Reach 2 section where river is eroding the island shoreline.

Lowell asked about revegetation of the large swale behind the Clarifier; can it be planted? Ash said yes.

Swan said CDOT will be doing further bank work below the Black Bear Hole. They will likely be wrapping up design in April with work commencing in late summer. Ash said CDOT willing to work with town on how they want the banking to look; important we coordinate with them soon. Sullivan said she would talk to town engineer Blankenship.

Action Item: Sullivan to speak to Blankenship about CDOT work below Black Bear Hole.

Simms asked about backwater designs for promotion of invertebrates in river. Ash said not many places along river for such places, but Stacy 404 buyout property or storm water settling ponds could be candidates for such "nurseries."

Regarding 404 properties, Sullivan cautioned EAB that only two members should go to Confluence meetings. Use of buyout properties has raised concerns among Confluence residents, and there will be a formal public input process before any decisions made.

Sullivan left meeting at 7:45 p.m.

Erika Shioya of Saint Vrain Creek Coalition introduced herself and said SVCC is willing to collaborate with EAB on river issues.

Ash, Swan and Shioya left meeting at 8 p.m.

Follow-up and discussion and review of action items:

Ecology Focused Educational Series – Movie is Friday night at Farmette. Marshall asked if EAB wants to purchase a copy of the book, “A Land Made From Water ...” by Friday’s guest speaker.

Motion: Carlson made motion to purchase a copy of the book for the Lyons Library; Lowell second; all aye.

Fairfax will purchase the book.

New Business:

404 Buyouts – Marshall said Confluence residents are concerned about how the buyout properties will be utilized. Parks & Rec has received a grant for a consultant to look at possible uses. Marshall suggested we stay informed on the developments but not espouse one use over another at this time.

Wilderness Institute – Simms said he was contacted by this organization to see if they could participate in any Earth Day celebrations in town. Unclear what they want, but Marshall will contact them to see if they might be of use in the Earth Day/Arbor Day events at Lyons Elementary School.

Action Item: Marshall to contact Wilderness Institute to see if they want to collaborate on the Earth Day/Arbor Day event April 29.

Ongoing Projects

a. Ecology Focused Educational Series

The EAB will show the movie, “The Great Divide,” at the Farmette March 18.

b. Arboretum Project

Fairfax (by e-mail) said Lyons Seniors want a tour later; Marshall said they are working the informational brochure.

c. Monthly Ecology Article

Lowell said latest article was on mountain lions. Looking for ideas for next article – maybe on Carter Lake diversion in town.

d. Review Design Development Documents

Marshall said DHM was selected for final Bohn Park design, due in July. She will keep track of design work to keep EAB in loop.

Pending Sullivan's discussion with town engineer, EAB should stay informed on CDOT plans for banking below Black Bear Hole; Carlson said he will see what he can find out about the work.

e. Update and merge tree ordinance

Harris said a tree evaluation form might be appropriate for the ordinance; could be used to recoup any damage done to town trees, or removal of trees. Need to check with town attorney on this form. Carlson said he had received advice that said ordinance should list trees prohibited for planting in town. He said that some tough choices may have to be made about certain trees and how to list them (for example, green ash, silver maples). Would tree ordinance include them as 'prohibited' trees or keep them listed as not recommended/ non-desirable?

f. 5th Avenue project

Simms said nothing to report.

g. Arbor Day/Earth Day Celebration – Marshall said she will send out e-mail in advance of this to promote it.

Liaison and Subcommittee Reports

Parks & Rec – Marshall said she was on a group that toured Meadow Park. She showed photos of the newly installed “drops” and how they accommodated fish passage. The banks will be planted primarily with willows.

BOT – no report

Botanical Gardens – Fairfax (by e-mail) reported she and others on committee had attended the March 12 Natural Plants landscaping conference.

UEB – Gordon said UEB was involved with storm water management issue, discussing funding. Said UEB looking for EAB input on storm water RFP.

Watershed Committee – no report.

ECD – Carlson said there have been no formal minutes due to lack of quorum. Had been a general discussion of Main St. landscaping with an eye to developing some “gateway features.”

PCDC – Lowell said the PCDC is holding public meetings on the three planning areas: Eastern Corridor (March 17) and Apple Valley and Eastern Area in April.

SFC – Gordon said SFC will be holding a hard recycling and community yard sale day in May. Reported Toby Russell is now onboard for another six months.

Other Business

Lowell said he is now part of the St. Vrain Anglers Trout Unlimited conservation committee, looking at possible river restoration projects. He said the stretch from Bohn Park upstream to Old So. St. Vrain Road bridge and the redo of the Highland Ditch Company dam are projects he's researching.

Meeting adjourned at 9 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Greg Lowell, EAB Recording Secretary