

# Town of Lyons Ecology Advisory Board Meeting Notes

**August 10, 2016**

**Present:** Steve Simms, Greg Lowell, Dave Batts, Kurt Carlson, Garima Fairfax; Mike Harris (Parks & Rec); Coco Gordon (SFC)

Simms began meeting at 6:35 p.m.

**Motion:** To approve meeting notes of June; Lowell made motion; Fairfax second; all aye.  
Meeting notes accepted.

## Follow-up and discussion and review of action items:

**Weed Booklets** – Fairfax suggested that since there are no fall events planned where the booklets could be handed out that they be given at the annual Botanic Garden plant sale next spring. Simms said he had not yet received okay from LCF to repurpose grant money for booklet purchase. Simms also said there is new round for LCF grant money and perhaps we could write grant application for their purchase.

**Action Item:** Simms to write LCF grant for purchase of weed booklets.

## New Business:

**On the Trails Art** – Carlson had earlier sent e-mail to all describing how repurposed materials can be used for artwork – possibly a project for Lyons new trails.

**Action Item:** Carlson to broach this subject with Lyons Arts & Humanity Council.

Simms added how important it is to flow information and ideas to town staff.

## Ongoing Projects

### a. Ecology Focused Educational Series

Fairfax said the film, “Fresh” will be shown at Stonebridge Farm Sept, 9; she said she is contacting local organic farms to check their interest in attending and telling their stories.

**Action Item:** Fairfax to get movie to Simms for a test-run.

### b. Arboretum Project

Fairfax said 18 new metal signs have been ordered to replace those broken and for future labeling; most trees are doing well. Brochures being printed for third time, as the first 100 have been taken.

### c. Monthly Ecology Article

Lowell said latest article was on litter. Sought suggestions for September article: considering fall weed control, Highland Dam status, or a wildlife piece.

Batts reported that the Highland Dam situation is still not resolved and that the ditch company is doing its own analysis in effort to avoid remediation of the dam, which was not built to FEMA standards and has implications for town, such as losing its FEMA flood insurance.

#### **d. Review Design Documents**

Harris said the Bohn Park design is approaching 90 percent.

Batts went over some information from his position on the Watershed Advisory Board (WAB); specifically, that the WAB is providing comments and input to help ensure that the river restoration incorporates a natural channel design (e.g., boulder clusters, minimal drop structures, woody debris, no grouting of structures, etc.) to promote fish and aquatic habitat, in addition to river play activities.

Batts said the WAB has had input on the Bohn Park design; there will be just three drop structures in the river vs. previous five.

Batts said there will be an overflow channel on the Stacy property (now town property). The design and use of the Stacy property must go through a public process and said the EAB should consider the ecological benefits of keeping the property in a more natural state. He said bird-watching is an economic plus for the town – witness the number of birders along the Old South St. Vrain Road.

Batts said suggested that the EAB should create an ecological “vision” for the South St. Vrain River for the agencies involved in the restoration to use. The vision can build upon the town’s SRCAP but focus is a little weak on the ecology aspect, he said, and our vision needs to focus on the river, ecological and economic benefits of having an unfragmented river corridor and uplands from the old Andesite quarry site down to Bohn Park. For example, a continuous riparian habitat would promote the nesting and migration of birds from the forest down to Bohn Park. This would be a draw for birders. Birders on average make three times the income of the national average and spend between \$1,500 to \$3,000 per year. Promoting this activity would further diversify town visitation and benefit local business. This vision would also benefit fishing.

**Action Item:** Batts will draft a vision statement and pass by EAB members.

**Action Item:** Lowell to confer with Matt Manley on public input process.

Further discussion on Highland Dam situation led to following motion by Lowell:

**Motion:** That the Ecology Advisory Board review any and all re-design or remediation plans for the Highland Ditch Company dam that may come before the Town of Lyons to ensure fish passage and good aquatic habitat.

Gordon reminded that a formal motion carries weight and is best way to get attention of town officials.

Fairfax seconded motion; all aye. Motion passed.

**e. Update and merge tree ordinance**

Harris said nothing new to report.

**f. 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue project**

Simms will review current LCF grant to see if funds can be repurposed for this project.

**Liaison and Subcommittee Reports**

**Parks & Rec** – No report.

**BOT Report** – No report.

**Botanical Gardens** – New metal signs being purchased by Botanical Gardens and will be installed this fall.

**UEB** –Gordon said problem of “beer waste” still being worked.

**Watershed Committee** – no report.

**EDC** – no report

**PCDC** – no report.

**SFC** – Gordon said SFC wants to know if EAB interested in joint project on habitat.

**Additional Business**

Simms will schedule time to go before the BOT to enlighten them on EAB actions and projects. Lowell reminded that other EAB members should attend with him.

Bryan Baer has filled out application for EAB membership.

Meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Greg Lowell, EAB Recording Secretary