

Town of Lyons Ecology Advisory Board Meeting Notes

October 19, 2016

Present: Steve Simms, Greg Lowell, Dave Batts (at 7 p.m.), Kurt Carlson, Garima Fairfax; Bryan Baer; Fay Marshall; Mike Karavas (BOT rep.)

Simms began meeting at 6:37 p.m.

Motion: To approve meeting notes of September 28; Fairfax made motion; Carlson second; all aye (Baer and Marshall abstained). Meeting notes accepted.

Follow-up and discussion and review of action items:

Web Page – Baer said he and Mike Harris (P&R) are working logistics for uploading/maintaining the EAB's web page. Arielle Hodgdon said she will handle inputs and posting. Marshall suggested we look at Lyons Parks & Rec webpage for ideas. Carlson said we need to ensure we can link out from our portal to outside sources. Arboretum web page could also be linked.

Action Item – Baer and Harris to research issue of outside linkage and to see if the EAB can have its own URL.

Weed Booklets – Marshall looking for ideas on verbiage for stickers to be placed on the weed books ("courtesy of Ecology Board," for example). Suggestions were offered and Marshall will create a prototype sticker.

Weed Code Enforcement – A recent citation of a resident for violation of weed code prompted discussion on how, when and if EAB should be involved with Code Enforcement Officer on such issues. Discussion followed on what constitutes a weed violation. Marshall and Batts suggested any resident who is cited should be provided with one of EAB's weed booklets. Fairfax said EAB should be copied on any violation. Protocol for handling these issues was discussed. Lowell said perhaps EAB should be copied on any Code Enforcement Officer actions.

Action Item – Karavas will research the current protocol and advise EAB.

New Business:

Dead Trees Replacement – Simms reported that he had observed some recently planted trees along the river that appeared to be dead; sprinkler system may not be reaching the trees. Asked if we can determine if tree is dead and would it be wise to request a replacement tree from the contractor at this time. Marshall said P&R is aware of some trees/plants issues in LaVern Johnson Park and those issues will be addressed in the spring. Fairfax and Baer said spring is a better time to assess trees. Baer suggested we do a walk-around for all newly planted trees in later spring.

Warranty Review – Marshall will ask Dave Cosgrove what the conditions of the warranties on new trees are.

City of Boulder “Ecology Board” – Simms said that the City of Boulder has a similar Ecology Board to ours and asked whether we should make contact with them – maybe glean some new ideas. Batts said City of Boulder has a “Natural Ecosystem Map” we could perhaps emulate.

General Discussion on Grants –Subject of grants for EAB projects was brought up and Carlson said there’s a national clearinghouse where we could research types of grants.

Ongoing Projects

a. Ecology Focused Educational Series

Fairfax said next movie will be in the spring and she’s looking for ideas. Carlson said he had just seen a PBS documentary on hummingbirds that might be a candidate. Discussion followed on how EAB will distribute weed booklets; consensus was that it should be at public events and not just left for pickup at, say, Town Hall..

b. Arboretum Project

Fairfax said 18 new metal signs have not yet been installed; waiting for ground to soften with rain. They will be installed at Sandstone Park and Depot area. Simms asked whether EAB had any input on the trees planted by CDOT on Main St. Consensus was that we had not.

c. Monthly Ecology Article

Lowell said latest article on local elk heard was not published in October (unclear why not), but Weed Posse photo/article was. Suggestions made for future articles included: area organic farms and CSAs, lawn alternatives, tree ordinance (when done) and reprise of deicer article from last winter.

d. Review Design Documents

No new designs to review.

Simms said he’s trying to find out more info on the Main St. triangle landscape plans and is trying to influence its look to match 5th Ave. project design; all town landscaping should have consistent look.

Lowell reported what he knew of Highland Dam issue; he reminded Karavas that EAB had made motion that EAB see any redesign/remediation plans for the Highland Dam.

e. Update and merge tree ordinance

Baer said he’s researched a list of recommended trees for the Lyons area that could be included in the tree ordinance; provided a copy to Simms.

Lowell suggested that EAB might put together a welcome packet of information for new homeowners. He cited the 15 or so new Markel homes going up whose yards will be landscaped by new owners. The list of trees, a weed booklet and other relevant material could be in the packet.

Action Item – Lowell to research/create new homeowners' packet.

f. 5th Avenue project

Nothing to report.

Liaison and Subcommittee Reports

Parks & Rec – Marshall said the town is now seeing the impact of usage on LaVern Johnson Park; turf and plantings being impacted, vehicles being driven where they shouldn't and suggestion that people are catching and keeping the stocked fish. Lowell said there are signs needed at various points of access on the river explaining the fishing rules – perhaps bilingual signs.

Action Item – Lowell will inquire of local game warden if CPW signs can be acquired and placed.

Marshall said Bohn Park design is at 100 percent and out for bid.

BOT Report – Karavas said the EAB needs to prioritize its budget requests; he'll work with Simms on it. He said the town is looking to trim \$200K-360K from budget. Karavas said Bohn Park has been scaled back to just river restoration, parking lot and restrooms; the rest will have to wait until after more-critical restoration work is completed.

Botanical Gardens – no report

UEB – no report.

Watershed Committee – Batts said Boulder County floodplain mapping has been rolled out.no report.

EDC –Carlson said commission talking about ways to capture revenue from Lyons through-traffic.

PCDC – no report.

SFC – no report.

Meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Greg Lowell, EAB Recording Secretary