

**Ecology Advisory Board Meeting Notes**  
**February 20, 2019**  
**Lyons Town Hall**

**Attendance:** Steve Simms, Greg Lowell, Garima Fairfax, Fay Marshall, Dave Batts, Kurt Carlson; Mike Karavas (BOT); Carse Pustmueller, public

Simms began meeting at 6:32 p.m.

**Discussion of BOT Meeting on Weed Management (2/19)** – General discussion on Simms’ presentation to BOT of the suggested new Integrated Weed Management Policy.

Karavas reminded the EAB of their “advisory” role, and that items like the suggested application form was not appropriate to our role; that form needs to come from Town staff (at our suggestion).

Fairfax said she had some practical weeding suggestions that Town might want to adopt – the mechanics and timing of weed control.

Pustmueller said her previous work with Boulder suggests that the EAB should now work with Town staff on implementation of suggested practices with an eye to formal adoption by the Town.

Carlson said that the Town has now been made aware of the public’s sensitivity to weed control measures, and incremental changes to Town’s policy could become more palatable to staff.

Batts talked about how the education process is important, and that dollars expended don’t always define the value and benefits of any practices. He suggested that the subcommittee do public outreach and education.

Karavas asked if the subcommittee’s LCF grant (\$1500) has been approved by the EAB; answer was no. He reminded EAB that they need to keep control of the weed subcommittee. Carlson said they need an education on proper protocol.

Simms said we need to get Cosgrove’s feedback on the new plan; it was clear from BOT meeting that he had some comments to it. Marshall reminded all that the new plan is the EAB’ – not the weed subcommittee’s.

Fairfax reminded that the EAB still needs a liaison (Mike Harris was our last). She also asked if Weed Posse should communicate with the Town staff where they are weeding in order to keep communication happening.

**Approval of minutes from January:** Fairfax made motion to accept January notes; Simms second; all aye.

## **New Business**

**Highland Dam** – Lowell had earlier sent photos of work done on face of the dam; questioned why rock face could not have been extended to allow fish passage.

**Town Sustainability Position** – Town is looking for replacement for Toby Fuller, who will be leaving at the end of the month. Simms wondered if this position could not also combine Natural Resources Director. Karavas suggested Simms talk to administrator Simonsen and Dave Cosgrove about it. Marshall said she would also schedule meeting with both of them.

**River Watch data** – Carlson said St. Vrain Lefthand Water District looking for water quality data from high school ecology group. He also said that district had received a grant to do fish passage study on Lefthand Creek and that that study could assist us in looking at fish passage in Lyons. Batts said the high school is still working the issue of a website where their collected river data could be displayed to the public.

**Historical EAB items** – Fairfax showed a folder she had compiled of all newspaper items related to Ecology Board; suggestion was that we should somehow both archive them and make them available on line. Lowell said there was already 6-7 of his articles on Town website and he could submit more or the articles could be lifted from the Redstone Review website.

**Arbor Day** – Marshall will begin planning for activities in March. There are possible change to the usual contest. Simms suggested maybe a revival of the raptor display; Marshal said the school had arranged the last one, not us. A tree planting will be done. Marshall asked if perhaps an ash tree awareness campaign is appropriate. Carlson said a proclamation on Arbor Day by BOT is appropriate.

**Tree Ordinance** – Carlson reminded all that the tree ordinance is STILL with Dave Cosgrove and that it has not been formally adopted yet. Carlson said last he knew Town attorney was asking about heritage trees on private property and how they might be factored into the ordinance. Marshall will broach subject with Cosgrove.

## **Ongoing Projects**

**Upland Plan** – Lowell said the plan is still very much in the formative stage; trying to give it a framework. Had suggested perhaps drawing it up based on quadrants of the town. Suggestion by Karavas that maybe division by watersheds within town might also work. Batts suggested that coverage by ecotones might also work; what are delineators for specific ecotones (bird nesting, wildlife, plant types, etc.). Protection of open space and corridors is important, no further fragmentation of important parcels. Make the case for land protection, especially in any future annexation agreements. Lowell said his draft will be rough – only about 30 percent done and rest will be joint effort.

**BOT Report** – Karavas said Town will have to redo some fish structures in Bohn Park to get the \$90K “Fishing is Fun” grant money. Said Town budget is currently in “the red” and this will be challenging year for flood grants and wrapping up projects.

**Botanic Garden** – Fairfax reported that weeding on the Baranway property is underway.

**New Member Appointment** – Pustmueller paperwork is in, but Simms reported that the mayor has reiterated that the majority of EAB members should be from within town. Currently, Marshall, Fairfax and Carlson live outside town limits. Both Carlson and Lowell said that since EAB covers more than just issues within town limits – we weigh on the entire valley – that likewise we should not be restricted to just in-town residents. Simms will broach this with mayor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

POST MEETING ACTION ITEMS

Action	Assigned To	Deadline
As noted above under "Action Item"		

DECISIONS MADE

As noted above

NEXT MEETING

MARCH 20, 2019 6:30 P.M., TOWN HALL

Respectfully Submitted,

**Greg Lowell**

EAB Recording Secretary