

Ecology Advisory Board Meeting Notes

April 16, 2019

Lyons Town Hall

Attendance: Steve Simms, Greg Lowell, Garima Fairfax, Fay Marshall, Kurt Carlson; Mike Karavas (BOT); Carse Pustmueller, public; Bob Brakenridge, weed subcommittee

Simms began meeting at 6:38 p.m.

Approval of minutes from March: Fairfax made motion to accept March notes; Carlson second; all aye.

Weed Management Subcommittee – Brakenridge from the subcommittee was present. Discussion began with his response to Trustee Browning’s list of questions that were not addressed at the BOT workshop. Brakenridge assured all that the responses were his personal thoughts, not necessarily representative of the SC. Pustmueller suggested that the proper response might have been a collaboration between the SC and the Ecology Board.

The issue of the SC’s status was discussed. Brakenridge said Mayor Sullivan has made it clear there’s no allowance in Town boards for a subcommittee. He said that it’s important to remember that there’s a group of residents who want to do something about weed management practices in Town and that they will abide by any communications structure the EB comes up with.

Simms said funneling all formal communication through the EB is the best way.

Marshall added that any SC must adhere to the same training that all boards and commissions receive from the Town. Brakenridge said that going to such training might imply that the SC is an official Town SC, which it is not. Carlson said that it’s permissible for the EB as a Town board to entertain various groups.

Simms said he’s still confused over the weed SC’s structure and how they would work with the EB. It’s an issue of how best to communicate the SC’s ideas or responses to Town staff or the BOT.

A motion was discussed and Lowell made the following motion as a result:

Motion: That the SOS Weed Subcommittee will pass all communications related to Items 1-14 listed on the Integrated weed Management Practices 2018 Weed/Herbicide/Insecticide/Pesticide control Vision and Recommendations statement, dated 6/19/2018, to the Ecology Advisory Board for collaboration, consent and forwarding to the appropriate Town staff and/or Board of Trustees.

Fairfax second; all aye. Motion passes.

Spraying Signage – Marshall asked what the issue was with the signage recently posted to announce spraying along McConnell Drive in the area of the high school. Brakenridge said the announcement was ambiguous. Lowell said that the synthetic chemicals that were used were not in the Town statement on the spraying. Brakenridge said also that the chemicals that were used were not applied according to the proper timing; applied too late. The announcement of the spraying was on the Town website as agreed, but the chemicals were not mentioned. Marshall asked if this was going to be the only application. Brakenridge said he believed a post-emergent would be applied later.

Action Item: Marshall will ask Dave Cosgrove about the schedule and location(s) of future spraying.

Simms said he thought the signage would be larger and more specific. Also, the timing issue of the spraying was questioned. The sensitivity of certain students at the school should have required that the school also be notified well in advance of the spraying. Lowell suggested Marshall could relay this to Cosgrove. Fairfax also said Marshall might convey our concern about using more non-synthetic chemicals. Pustmueller said that there may be an assumption that because Town is using Organolawn firm to spray that they are using non-toxics; the actual chemicals they use need to be known and announced. Carlson says we should not be telling Cosgrove what to do, but should remind him that there's a continuing awareness in Town of the use of weed control chemicals.

Test Plots – Karavas raised the issue of the mechanics of the proposed test plots. Lowell asked if we were clear on what test plots will entail. Marshall said Cosgrove's email requested that formal plans for their management and maintenance must be approved by Town.

Brakenridge said that several members of the SC would like to propose a test plot, but reminded that Cosgrove has said that certain weed control practices will be discontinued in certain areas. Simms said the SC "should run" with this announced change in practice and propose a methodology for the test plots. Marshall reminded that the Town cannot give permission without submission of formal plans. Test plot monitoring over the years is also important.

Brakenridge admitted the issue of test plots is confusing to him. Not sure if the concept was ever broached to the SC. Lowell said test plots were always part of the equation and would serve a demonstration and educational vehicle. Lowell asked Brakenridge if there's an appetite for doing test plots on the SC; is there manpower, expertise and commitment? Brakenridge said he will take back the ideas to the SC; he said while Cosgrove has asked for a plan, is there a template for such management practices? Karavas said that information has already been made available. Carlson said this is an opportunity to change current practices. Simms said the SC needs to find a baseline of past practices and modify them accordingly.

Motion by Marshall:

Motion: That the Weed Subcommittee will take as an action to meet with Dave Cosgrove to discover current weed management and practices in the parks, review them for test plots and to propose changes in line with weed management practices.

Fairfax second; all aye.

Ash Trees – Marshall said that from her discussion with Cosgrove no further treatment of Town ash trees will be done. Suggestion was that a grant be applied for that could be used for replacement trees. Marshall said we should assist Town in researching such grants.

Tree Giveaway – Lyons will participate in the Boulder County tree program for residents; cost to residents not clear yet.

Stream Mgt. Workshop – Carlson said he attended Webinar March 25. Said he pointedly mentioned Highland Dam fish passage issue.

EB Membership – Discussion on Pustmueller and Fairfax switching roles as there is no provision for more than three outside residents to be on Town board. Pustmueller said she would prefer to act as an advisor. Karavas pointed out that EB can have as many non-voting members as it thinks are appropriate.

Botanic Gardens – Fairfax said 6-9 people have been showing up to help clear the site every week. Said BG group will meet with fire chief on alleyway. Annual plant sale is May 18-19 at Steamboat Foods. Weed Posse will be starting up soon.

Arbor Day – Marshall said the LES second-graders planted 65 willow stakes in Laverne Johnson Park. There will be a tree planting at LES April 19. 20 children entered the contest this year, and the annual tree-tagging exercise will be done with fourth graders.

Public Outreach – Lowell reminded there will be a talk by Northern Water April 26 at the Farmette.

BoT Report – Karavas said Phase II of Bohn. Park will start soon; there will be an additional \$101K expense due to delay, but FEMA will pick up cost. There will be no water to Eastern Corridor until treatment plant BOD issue resolved. Mayor Sullivan has removed title of “secretary” from boards and replaced with “2nd vice chair.”

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

POST MEETING ACTION ITEMS

Action	Assigned To	Deadline
As noted above under “Action Item”		

DECISIONS MADE

As noted above

NEXT MEETING

MAY 21, 2019 6:30 P.M., TOWN HALL

Respectfully Submitted,

Greg Lowell

EAB 2nd Vice Chair