

Ecology Advisory Board Meeting Notes

June 18, 2019

Depot Mtg. Room

Attendance: Fay Marshall (acting chair), Garima Fairfax, Kurt Carlson, Greg Lowell; Carse Pustmueller, public; Mike Karavas, Trustee rep.

Marshall began meeting at 6:37 p.m.

Approval of minutes from April: Carlson made motion to accept April notes; Marshall second; However it was determined that we didn't have a quorum of board members that were in attendance in May so the official vote will have to happen at the July meeting.

Public Outreach – Fairfax announced the Sept. 27 outreach event will be held at Stonebridge Farm and the movie, "Biggest Little farm in America" will be shown.

Heritage Trees – Discussion on the possible addition of designated "heritage trees" to Town tree ordinance. Marshall said Simms had reported that incorporating this designation will be more difficult than assumed. Karavas said the tree ordinance could go forward to BOT and heritage tree details could be inserted later.

Trees (general) – Fairfax reported that the trees at the post office are suffering because the irrigation has not been turned on; she said she has and will continue to work with postmistress.

Local resident Ron Gosnell has criticized the tree selection at the new library site; honey locust situated under power lines, trees should not be planted over underground utilities. Discussion of monocultures (lots of same type trees) followed. Tree types should be diverse to avoid loss of many trees at once (see, ash borer issue). Lowell asked if there were plans for a Town tree nursery from which to get replacement trees when needed; nothing definitive.

Weeds (general) – Carlson questioned the height requirement stated in our weed ordinance; says weeds over certain height must be removed. Karavas reminded that the height requirement was for fire prevention and safety (for example, line of site at intersections) reasons. Carlson said Brakenridge's description of weed roles in succession was good; argued against "nuking" of all weeds but instead being selective and keeping some beneficial plants (see, milkweed). Carlson said we should consider possible changes to weed ordinance height requirement.

Lyons River Park - Lowell reported that Parks & Rec Comm heard the proposed regulations for the new park, and he showed them to EAB members. He said Western States Reclamation is now planting 14K wetlands plants, 250 shrubs and 165 trees and will also overseed area with natural grasses. He said there will have to be some spot-spraying to kill weeds that have sprung up this spring on the barren ground. Pustmueller questioned how this could be called a "natural area" when herbicides were being used. Lowell said the entire area – even paths – are now off-limits to public to allow plants and grass to

thrive. Signage and additional fences will soon be installed and public will not be allowed until at least late August – even then, traffic will be confined to foot paths and all regulations will be strictly enforced. Marshall asked if any mosquito control measures had been discussed; Lowell said no. Consensus was that EAB should be aware of any proposal to control mosquitos.

Shooting range – Lowell said Town is considering two measures: a letter of protest from Town to County and a possible ballot advisory question for the public.

Apple Valley Buyout Properties – Lowell led discussion on the 10 Apple Valley flood buyout properties that Boulder County has offered to the Town. There has been no action on these since last fall when PCDC considered them. Lowell said he was considering a formal motion from EAB to have Town accept these properties, citing river access and open space considerations. Karavas said the properties were important for Town to acquire, given future annexation and growth in Apple Valley. He also said economic considerations, like bird watching, should weigh in favor of Town owning these parcels. After discussion, consensus was that Lowell should write a justification statement similar to the South St. Vrain vision statement and use it as basis for a formal motion.

Action Item: Lowell to draft statement on Apple Valley buyout properties.

Botanic Gardens – Fairfax said work progressing and storage shed will soon be done.

Weed Posse – Fairfax said group will be working at Lavern Johnson park along riparian area.

Walking Arboretum – Fairfax reported that she’s working to replace damaged or missing signs; looking at hanging signs, rather than ground-level signs.

Meeting adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

POST MEETING ACTION ITEMS

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

DECISIONS MADE

As noted above

NEXT MEETING

JULY 16, 2019 6:30 P.M., TOWN HALL

Respectfully Submitted,

Greg Lowell EAB 2nd Vice Chair