

Ecology Advisory Board Meeting Notes
January 15, 2019
Lyons Town Hall

Attendance: Steve Simms, Greg Lowell, Garima Fairfax, Fay Marshall, Dave Batts (left at 6:55), Kurt Carlson; Mike Karavas (BOT); Carse Pustmueller, public

Simms began meeting at 6:33 p.m.

Carse Pustmueller was introduced as a candidate for the open Ecology Board position. She gave a brief description of her qualifications, which include a 45-year career in land conservation, work with the Colorado Dept. of Resources, as a senior scientist for the Audubon Society, expertise on conservation easements and as executive director of the Colorado Headwaters land trust. She lives outside Lyons town limits (and EAB already has 3 outside members), but consensus of members was that an exception should be made given her areas of expertise. Simms will provide her an application.

Approval of minutes from December: Fairfax made motion to accept October notes; Batts second; all aye.

Follow-up Discussion

School Activities - As Batts indicated he had to leave early, this was moved up in agenda. Batts said he and Marshall will meet with LES and Middle/Senior HS teachers and students to explore possible ecology-related projects. His desire is that these activities began as soon as possible. An osprey nest at the new Lyons River Park is a possibility. Tree planting along pedestrian path from Black Bear Hole south is another possible project; Simms said there is an earmarked LCF grant for such work that could be applied for. Fairfax also suggested the same grant could be used for planting project around Clarifier.

Weed Management Subcommittee – Marshall presented her edits to the Weed Management Plan, saying some of the edits suggested at the previous meeting had not been made. Her edits included clarification of “non-toxic vs. “toxic” organic controls. She also said that biological controls mentioned in the new plan should be approved by an expert at Boulder county and also be in compliance with state, county or local regulations (Fairfax said she would try to find who at Boulder County government would be the contact). Marshall also provided a writeup on the inspection of stored herbicides and pesticides on Town property. Marshall also said the Town should not be the arbiter of the health risks of weed controls (as was noted in the new plan); that section was deleted.

Fairfax made motion:

Motion: To accept the version of the Town of Lyons Integrated Weed Management Plan amended by Fay Marshall, dated January 14, 2019 and presented to the Ecology Advisory Board on January 14, 2019.

No discussion; all aye. Motion passed.

Boulder County Tree Program – Lowell said Kim Michell, town staff who spoke to EAB in December, was supposed to send him a list of the offered trees; he said he will follow up.

Dark Sky Presentation – Fairfax said she tried twice to contact Pam Stone, who heads up the students’ “Dark Sky” study, but received no response; she assumes that means there’s no interest in giving a public presentation. Fairfax said she is looking for ideas for the April outreach program. Lowell reminded that Northern Water is willing to come and give a presentation; he will contact them.

Drone Policy – Lowell said Parks & Rec Commission has the policy for their action. Carlson commented on the drone policy in Jefferson County parks and showed a “No Drone Zone” sign that the county uses.

Ditches on “L” Hill – Marshall related a discussion she had with a friend on Welch Court who described to her the flooding that occurred from the South Ledge Ditch during the 2013 flood. General discussion on ditches and whether they should be included in the Upland Plan

Upland Plan – Lowell said he is researching source material for the plan and has received some files from Boulder County Parks & Open Space. Simms said his discussion with Jerry Jacka revealed that the intern who was researching Town data actually has files with layered maps. Pustmueller suggested the Colorado Natural Heritage Plan as another source for information. She also asked about conservation easement opportunities in town.

BOT Report – Karavas said that Highland Ditch Company has begun safety remediation of their dam; Lowell commented that they had drained the whole river to do so. Karavas reminded EAB that they should keep an active list of projects so that as money becomes available the projects can be worked. Town is negotiating with CPW on their requirement to have town redo some fish structures in Bohn Park, despite the fact they had approved the river design at several stages of the reconstruction. Town will spend \$12K to receive \$40K “Fishing is Fun” grant money. Lowell expressed wish that we could stop f---g around in the river, as it is back and thriving and is set back each time work is redone.

Botanic Garden – Fairfax reported that weeding on the Baranway property has commenced with the Weed Posse.

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

February 20, 2019 6:30 p.m., Town Hall

Respectfully Submitted,

Greg Lowell

EAB Recording Secretary