

Town of Paonia
214 Grand Avenue
Tuesday, September 16, 2025 5:30 PM
Tree Board Minutes

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Chair Hottinger calls the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

Roll Call

Present:

Chair Hottinger

Vice Chair Newland

Secretary Patterson

Board Liaison Heck

Board Member Haynie

Board Member Wells

Absent:

Board Member Short

Approval of Agenda

Vice-Chair Newland asks for the adding a topic of information for the presentation previously discussed for the Board of Trustees.

Chair Hottinger makes a motion to approve the agenda with the added topic. Seconded by Secretary Patterson.

The motion carries unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes - August 19, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Chair Hottinger makes a motion to approve the minutes from August 19, 2025. Seconded by Board Vice Chair Newland

The motion carries unanimously.

Actions & Presentations

Item #1: Stefen's Memorandum Discussion Parts 1, 2 and 3

The discussion focused on Town Administrator Wynn's memorandum outlining the Tree Board's advisory role. Members acknowledged ongoing communication challenges between the Board, Town staff, Public Works, and the Board of Trustees. They expressed concern that the Board's recommendations related to tree permitting, ordinance enforcement, and replacement procedures are not being integrated into Town decision-making processes.

No motion or action made.

Item #2: Relationship with Public Works

Members noted challenges in the relationship with Public Works following staff changes, including lapses in prior protocols and communication that have affected pruning practices and collaboration.

No motion or action made.

Item #3: Our Role.

Members discussed the Board's role and purpose, noting concerns about whether Town leadership seeks its advice and emphasizing the need for clarity on expectations.

- i. How does the town administration, Mayor, and Trustees value our public trees/urban forest?
- ii. What are the expectations for maintaining the Paonia urban forest?
- iii. Understanding we are advisory in nature (as outlined in the memorandum) what specifically

does the Mayor and Trustees want from us?

No motion or action made.

Item #4: Discussion of creating a written overview, for the record: Future of Paonia Trees

Future of Paonia's urban forest discussed. Observations: overmature trees lacking diversity; risk of widespread canopy loss in 10–20 years; threats from reduced water availability, climate change, poor maintenance, and invasive pests (e.g., emerald ash borer). Board agreed on need for a written overview to communicate risks and strategies.

No motion or action made.

Item #5: Discussion About a Training Video for Public & Staff

Training for Public Works was discussed. Consensus that creating a new training video was unnecessary; instead, recommend identifying existing reputable pruning videos or hiring licensed arborists. They emphasized that training requires long-term expertise.

No motion or action made.

Item #6: Discussion about the 10–15-year planting and removing plan.

Discussion of 10–15-year planting and removal plan. Members agreed to review Kamie Long's report for guidance and to attempt collaboration with Public Works. Need for formalized plan remains, but clarity from Town administration is necessary.

Discussion Note: The Tree Board decided not to prepare a presentation to the Trustees.
Rationale: Effort required is not justified; past input has been ignored; communication from Town leadership is unclear; members prefer to wait for genuine interest. Outcome: No presentation will be pursued unless circumstances change.


No motion or action made.

Upcoming Meeting:

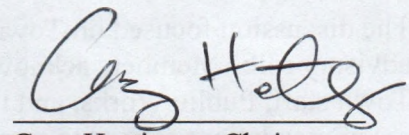
Tuesday Oct 21, 2025 - Town Hall Board Room 5:30 PM

Adjournment

Chair Hottinger adjourns the meeting at 6:30 PM.


Ruben Santiago, Deputy Town Clerk




Greg Hottinger, Chair