

City of Salem, Massachusetts



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City Ordinance Sections 2-2028 through 2-2033."**

**The City Council Committee on Government Services Co-Posted with the Committee of the
Whole**

will met in the Council Chamber on September 21, 2022 at 6:30 P.M.

for the purpose of discussing the matters(s) listed below. Notice of this meeting was posted on

September 16, 2022 at 1:00 P.M.

(This meeting is being recorded)

ATTENDANCE: Gov't Services committee members: C. Hapworth (Chair), C. Varela, C. McLain, and C. Cohen. COW members C. McCarthy, C. Merkle, C. Dominguez, Pres. Morsillo.

ABSENT WERE: C. Prosniewski, C. Riccardi, C. Watson-Felt.

SUBJECT(S)

To discuss applicants interested in an appointment to the Community Preservation Committee or Tree
Commission.

Chair Hapworth opened the meeting by reading the agenda. Introduced applicants: Cady Goldfield (Tree Commission); Jane Rumrill (Tree); Maria Connell (Tree); Katie Martin (Community Preservation Commission); Jeremy Mele (CPC); Ed Moriarty (CPC. Thanked candidates for willingness to serve. Calls Cady Goldfield to podium.

Cady Goldfield (C.G.): Thank you for the opportunity.

Chair Hapworth: Any questions from the Council?

C. Cohen: Defers to applicants to allow them each to speak.

Chair Hapworth offers floor to Cady Goldfield (C.G.)

C.G.: Gives background information as a horticulturalist, specializing in urban trees. Owns small horticultural/ garden business. Adjunct professor at North Shore Community College for 10 years. Urban tree coverage very important for future.

Chair Hapworth: Tree Commission has two open positions; needs an Arborist. Recognizes C. Riccardi via remote participation.

C. Dominguez: Thanks C.G. for willingness to serve. Good representation of knowledge of subject. What is recommendation to correct situation of unhealthy trees in Salem?

C.G.: Through Urban Tree Commission, Salem is eligible to receive free trees! The way the trees are planted now causes suffering. Recommends having fewer trees to have more room to breathe and get more water.

C.Dominguez: Thank you.

C. Pres Morsillo: As a Liaison, more than attendance is desirable. How much time do you have to devote to your activities?

C.G.: Only have to worry about teaching. Schedule is under control being self-employed. Spoke to Mrs. (Darleen) Melis about responsibilities before applying.

Chair Hapworth: Have you served on other committees? How well do you work with others?

C.G.: Was in public relations for 25 years, so I know how to communicate and take part in large, intense meetings..

Chair Hapworth: Thank you. Jane Rumrill.

Jane Rumrill: Work for a land trust as events outreach manager. Attracted to Salem because of greenspace. Former teacher. Worked in ARC GIS which is used in tree inventory.

Chair Hapworth: Any questions for Jane? C. Dominguez.

C. Dominguez: Thank you for your willingness to serve. As a former teacher, important to teach diverse communities how to maintain their yards, trees, environment.

J.R.: Big advocate for multi-language materials. Volunteers across all residents is important.

C. McClain: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you, Jane. How did you learn about this vacancy? What was your motivation to join?

J.R.: Saw posting on Jeff Cohen's Facebook page. Looked into commission and was impressed with what is being done. Concerned with trees dying over summer because of drought. Can make a difference with my knowledge.

C. Pres. Morsillo: Do you have time to spare?

J.R.: I can determine my own schedule. Self-starter.

Chair Hapworth: Have you served on other boards? How do you resolve conflict?

J.R.: Not Municipal boards, but at work. Differing levels of interest and knowledge. Had disagreements but stood up for what's important. Comfortable interacting with different persons.

Chair Hapworth: Thank you.

J.R.: Thank you.

Maria Connell: Lifelong Salem resident. Full disclosure: reached out to C. Cohen's wife to see what opportunities there were in tree commission; told me about vacancy. Accountant by trade. Passionate about nature. Grass roots. Volunteered with Salem Garden Club. Brings outside perspective. Still learning appropriate trees for environment. Thank you.

C. Dominguez: Thank you for willingness to serve. Your background is in numbers. How does that translate to Tree Commission? What other assets?

M.C.: Getting more knowledge as to which trees are appropriate for long term. Lifelong learner. Willing to invest time to learn. Will find time and stand up to commitment. Self-employed; treasurer of Rose Society. Will find time for passions.

Chair Hapworth: C. McClain?

C. McClain: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Maria, what's your inspiration to go from grass roots to Commission?

M.C.: In February of 2022 had a spiritual connection West Coast to old trees; moved to do more. C. Cohen's wife encouraged me.

C. McClain: What do you see that is needed? What is working well?

M.C.: Not a trained arborist; see through different lens. Salem has been a "Tree City", but room for improvement. Grew up in The Point. Newly planted trees are not being well-maintained. Inspired by how I can do better by these trees, be part of the solution.

C. McClain: How do you deal with difficulty?

M.C.: Listen and understand where people are coming from. Facilitator in conversations will be an asset to the commission.

Chair Hapworth: C. McCarthy.

C. McCarthy: I live across the street from major park design. What would you have done differently?

M.C.: Walked to Clam Shack and saw trees. Don't know all (native) species. Design company wasn't vetted but was supposed to fix design. Companies need to be vetted ahead of time.

C. McCarthy: Phase 2 of Willows project soon.

Chair Hapworth: Thank you. Maria will continue to volunteer.

C. McCarthy: Thank you all for coming. Credit to all for voicing beliefs. Each would be an asset.

Chair Hapworth: C. Cohen.

C. Cohen: Grateful for quality of candidates. Met Darleen on LORAX process and it is important that it has become a commission. In next year or two, upgrade Ordinance to apply to more of Salem. Can I make a motion?

Chair Hapworth: Yes; echo C. McCarthy's sentiments. Continue to serve even if not selected. Motion for two appointments: 1 member, 1 alternate.

C. Cohen: Motion for Cady Goldfield as full position as recommended to full Council.

C. McClain: Second.

(No discussion)

C. Cohen: C.G. has shown to be very dedicated. Example for whole community. Right for position.

Chair Hapworth: Recommend appointment of Cady Goldfield to Tree Commission by Roll Call Vote (RCV): C. Cohen: Y; C. McClain: Y; C. Varela: Y; Chair Hapworth: Y. Recommend to full Council.

Chair Hapworth: C. Cohen.

C. Cohen: Second Motion for Jane Rumrill as alternate from the public.

C. Varela: Second.

Chair Hapworth: C. Cohen.

C. Cohen. No reflection on maria Connell, but Jane Rumrill is very invested to being part of commission.

Chair Hapworth: RCV: C. Cohen: Y; C. McClain: N; C. Varela: Y; Chair Hapworth: Y. Thank you, applicants. Will vote tomorrow night. Now, Katie, Jeremy, Ed for Community Preservation Commission. Katie Martin.

Katie Martin: Architect; passion for historic preservation. Lived 5 years in Salem. Love it; forever home! CPA saved home in hometown from being demolished.

Chair Hapworth opens to questions.

C. Cohen: Thank you, Chair Hapworth. Appointed to Sustainability & Resiliency Commission. What skills in sustainability design will be an asset?

Katie Martin: Expertise in how new buildings and old can be sustainable. Grad thesis used programs to determine if things are sustainable. Opportunity to build "Greener".

Chair Hapworth: C. Dominguez.

C. Dominguez. Thank you for willingness to serve. Since Salem is very historic, how knowledgeable are you about Salem and how can expertise assist in preservation?

K.M.: Learning about historic buildings. Not an expert but interested in learning.

Chair Hapworth: C. Varela.

C. Varela: Thank you for your interest. How can we fund smaller projects and advocate for fair funding?

K.M.: Core roll to protect funds and opportunity each project presents. Small projects can make a difference, too. Respect each project.

C. McClain: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you, Katie. What is your motivation for CPA in particular? Interesting resume.

K.M.: Interested and intimidated; can make lots of impact! CPA funds saved house in my hometown. Huge responsibility; very important. Want to do something important!

C. McClain: Have you had opportunities to watch/ attend meetings? What would you bring to commission?

K.M.: Have not attended; read meeting minutes. Open-minded going into meetings and will bring new perspective.

C. McClain: with background as architect, would training sway opinion? What will it add to CPA?

K.M.: Expertise is dialogue with people presenting projects to save money. Give second opinion with information.

Chair Hapworth: What elements about affordable housing is important?

K.M.: Adaptive reuse is my passion, but not only thing. How Salem can do better – don't build on land susceptible to water. Think thoughtfully about where we build.

Chair Hapworth: What are biggest needs in Salem that CPC can help with?

K.M.: Housing! Open space is great but need affordable housing for future. Most important.

Chair Hapworth: How have you worked through difficult moments?

K.M.: Many think architects can be difficult! But helps people see eye to eye. Good-faith conversation.

Chair Hapworth: Thank you, Katie.

K.M.: Thank you.

Chair Hapworth: Jeremy Mele.

Jeremy Mele: Left Salem for school; moved back in 2019. Love Salem and public service. Want to leave City better than found it. Saw posting on C. Cohen's Facebook. Know how important affordable housing is. Different perspective. CPC built to support future. Worked at Pioneer Village and Witch House for 6 years. Know importance of history of Salem.

Chair Hapworth: 2022, year of C. Cohen, Social Media Influencer!

C. Varela: How can we improve funding small projects? Advocate for smaller projects?

J.M.: Depends on each project. Not going to be "small". Want to listen and support each case.

C. Varela: By "small", I mean dollar amount.

J.M.: Don't leave money on table. Use for smaller projects. Give all equal chance.

Chair Hapworth: Questions?

C. Cohen: Thank you, Chair. My perspective on sustainability and resiliency crisis of sustainability very deep. Sea wall obsolete. No way to keep water from destroying Pioneer Village. Council voted to fund phase 1 to move P.V. to Camp Naumkeag to preserve. What's your perspective on importance of sustainability?

J.M.: Climate change is real. Drastic measures need to be taken to reduce emissions. Preserve and new builds won't going to be washed away in 20-30 years.

C. McClain: Thank you. Why CPC?

J.M.: When reviewing, this commission is charged with supporting affordable housing. Need to support creation of places people can afford to live in.

Chair Hapworth: Regarding Open Space: your perspective?

J.M.: Not just projects that will be swept away by rising tides. Must be accessible and bring welfare to all. Don't create inequities based on income levels.

Chair Hapworth: How do you work with disagreements?

J.M.: Mild-mannered librarian. "Practiced neutrality". Level-headed to see things through.

Chair Hapworth: Thank you. Ed Moriarty.

Ed Moriarty: Thank you all. Honored to be on CPC and ask for reappointment. Attorney for 40 years. Familiar with Ordinances, statutes. On CPC from beginning. Thank you, Chair.

Chair Hapworth: Appreciate your service. Questions? C. Dominguez.

C.Dominguez: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Ed, for your service. Stellar record. What challenges may new commission composition bring?

E.M.: Policy must be referred to Council. Challenge to determine needs of community. Legal standards must be met before projects accepted.

C. Varela: As a long-time member how do you choose projects? Salem Sound, for example. Why wasn't bridge repair of the Sound a higher priority? Safety should be a priority.

E.M.: Need vs. eligibility requirement? Guidelines to determine project completion. CPC can't do as much as Council can.

C. McClain: Thank you, Ed. You are the only "Incumbent". Appreciate your words about process and standards. We rely on boards to take on projects. Smaller vs. bigger. Opportunity to execute priorities. How do you see arc of the CPC over time? Ways for success; room for improvement?

E.M.: Procedural barriers to do better. Can't fund all projects due to State statutes. Must prioritize. Too much on preservation and restoration. Not enough open spaces and recreation.

C. McClain: Appreciate candor, especially since this is a public forum. What motivates you to continue?

E.M.: Learned through discussion. Public vs. private in City. All have equal footing. City should first come to terms with public projects before private. Can't just approve to approve. Care deeply about commission. Lived in Salem 30 years. Want to continue to contribute.

C. Cohen: Thank you, Chair and Ed. Equality and access is the lens through which I look at things. What's your lens?

E.M.: Determine funding and eligibility by law. Guided by values/ humility.

C. McCarthy: Thank you, Chair. For the record, voted for Ed 10 years ago. C. McClain asks very thoughtful questions, which leads to my question. What is your role with departure of Jane Guy. Huge loss for City.

E.M.: Jane's loss to retirement substantial. Know from Jane how things are done. Committee daunting to run; need to keep up with budget.

Chair Hapworth: How do you deal with disagreements?

E.M.: As a litigator, disagree every day. When disagreement is over, good will always follows.

Chair Hapworth: C. Varela.

C. Varela: Not easy decision. Experience is an asset. Sometimes want a different point of view. Recommendation to full Council for Katie Martin.

Chair Hapworth: Motion to recommend Katie Martin to full Council. C. McClain seconded. No discussion? RCV? C. Cohen.

C. Cohen: Awkward when friends involved. Thank you, Ed, for initiatives you started. Grateful to Jeremy for his passion for sustainability. Appreciates Katie’s words about affordable housing. Disturbing to think folks believe people of lesser incomes shouldn’t have access to better living/ environments.

Chair Hapworth: Thank you applicants. Echo comments. Appreciates beliefs and service. Recommend to full Council.

RCV: C. Cohen – Y; C. Varela – Y; C. McClain – Y; Chair Hapworth – Y.

On the motion of C. Varela, the meeting adjourned at 8:12 P.M.

(Chairperson)