

City of Salem, Massachusetts



**"Know Your Rights Under the Open Meeting Law, M.G.L. c. 30A ss. 18-25 and
City Ordinance Sections 2-2028 through 2-2033."**

The City Council Committee on Public Health, Safety and Environment co-posted with the Committee of the Whole
met via zoom on Tuesday March 23rd 2021 at 6:00 P.M.
for the purpose of discussing the matters(s) listed below. Notice of this meeting was posted on
March 9, 2021 at 2:34 P.M.

(This meeting is being recorded)

ATTENDANCE

ABSENT WERE: None

Also in Attendance: Councillors Hapworth

Barbara Warren, Salem Sound Coastwatch; Darleen Melis, Salem Tree Commission; Robert LeBlanc, City of Salem; Michael Griffin, DCR

C Riccardi opened the meeting at 6:04pm

SUBJECT(S)

C Dibble moved for the agenda items to be taken out of order, seconded by C Dominguez

#76 Draft Ordinance relative to Urban Agriculture

C Riccardi provided an update on the Discussions that are occurring outside of the PHSE Committee meetings with the City Solicitor, Zoning Enforcement Officer, and members of the Urban Ag Draft team. There are still outstanding questions that are being discussed and the group is planning on meeting again the second week of April.

Public Testimony None

C Dibble moved for the matter to stay in Committee, Seconded by C Prosniewski

The PHSE Committee voted 5-0 on the motion to keep the matter in committee

#98 A presentation from Barbara Warren on Salem's Greenway Gateway City Program

Barbara Warren presented the Gateway for Greening Cities Presentation. Salem is now one of 4 new communities in the Greening the Gateway Cities MA Urban Canopy Project; a partnership between EEA, DCR, DOER and DHCD. Foresters (M Griffin and D Breshnham) will plant 2,400 trees in Salem. Salem Sound Coastwatch is the city's non-profit partner. Over the next 2 years, 2,000 trees will be planted on private property, 400 trees will be planted on municipal property. 40 + tree planting is already set up for this spring. There are designated "Planting Zones" within the city. D Mellis created maps for each ward of areas included. The process was reviewed and the outreach schedule. D Mellis also reviewed the Century Tree program. Discussion: C Riccardi asked how the planting zones were chosen and how to best engage with renters in the city. M Griffin DCF detailed the process followed by the state (DCR) to determine the planting zones, including existing coverage of tree canopy and existing heat zones. For the renters, they will work on the message. In Lynn for example, they have reached out to the larger landlords in the city.

C Morsillo asked if there was a focus on native trees. M Griffin said it is a diverse list of trees available, including native and non-native, but no invasive species, and they are cognizant of infestations.

C Dibble asked about the funding source. M Griffin advised this was originally funded through grant money from the park service, He will get details over to C Dibble. C Dibble asked for Public Housing to be included. There may be some areas that would benefit from being included, that are not in a planting zone. B Warren will reach out and discuss further with C Dibble. A species list was requested. This is posted on the website.

C Dominguez asked about replacement / removals of existing trees. M Griffin DCR stated they cannot handle removal of existing trees - they can really only plant. If a homeowner was able to prep tree removal, they might be able to help

C Dominguez and if they are launching educational programs - specifically with landlords that may not be knowledgeable on trees. B Warren confirmed they are working on getting the program message out - they are working with the schools for example and looking to get the information in the community and how the council can help with stewardship. M Griffin DCR noted the education programs they have done in Lynn for example that would work well in Salem - presentations with community groups, etc. If there are any needed, they are open to presenting to the community - please let them know.

C Morsillo asked about the goals of lowering wind speed and temps and if any studies have been done about the benefits of this program. M Griffin provided history on the creation of this program based on the spike of an asian beetle infestation in Worcester and the need to remove many trees. This caused a spike in AC usage for example in the summer. D Mellis noted the great loss of trees in the city of the years and how important they are.

Public Testimony

John Hayes, Hancock Street, Chair of SERC - SERC is available to help, This program is fantastic and they want to support. He noted he is a member of Arbor Day Foundation - they provide cards as a fundraiser, noting trees planted in honor. Might be an idea for the city to do something similar. He also noted that it would be helpful if the chat function was available during city meetings as feedback gathered during chats can be helpful.

Jeff Cohen, 12 Hancock St, Co-Chair of SERC; Really likes this program - trees are important to the well being of an area. Thinks the city could work with landlords and really sell the program.

Discussion

C Dibble asked if tree plantings were planted in connection with known gas leaks within the city. R LeBlanc noted that grant money was provided to fund gas testing prior to planting.

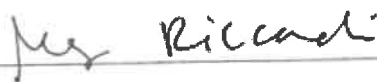
D Melis asked if tight spaces can be utilized for plantings (i.e. in between a fence and a building). M Griffin noted that they are used to tight spaces and specific species that do not grow to a high height can be used in these locations; along with any needed pruning. Some trees have a small footprint. There are many options considered when deciding what to plant.

C Dibble moved for that the matter be received and filed. Seconded by C Dominguez.

The PHSE Committee voted 5-0 on the motion to receive and file the presentation and dismiss the matter from Committee

C Riccardi noted she will provide a summary of the presentation to the council at Thursday's meeting.

On the motion of C. Morsillo the meeting adjourned at 7:14 P.M.



(Chairperson)



SALEM —



GREENING
THE GATEWAY CITIES
MA Urban Canopy Project

City Council Public Health, Safety and the Environment Committee,
co-posted with committee of the whole, March 23, 2021

- Over the past 5 years, the Greening the Gateway Cities Program has planted over 20,000 trees in 14 communities!
- Salem is NOW one of 4 new communities.
- Partnership between
 - Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA)
 - Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) Urban & Community Forestry Program
 - Department of Energy Resources (DOER)
 - Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD)



SALEM —



GREENING
THE GATEWAY CITIES
MA Urban Canopy Project

- Ma. Dept. of Conservation and Recreation (DCR)
Foresters will plant 2400 trees in Salem
 - *Michael Griffin, David Bresnahan and Ana Nenshati*
- Salem Sound Coastwatch is the City's nonprofit partner conducting outreach to recruit people who want trees planted.
 - *Barbara Warren*
- **2,000 trees** will be planted on private property-with the promise to water their new tree(s) for 2 years
- **400 trees** will be planted on municipal property
 - Working with *Bob LeBlanc* - City Arborist
 - 40+ tree planting already set up for this spring



<https://www.maurbancanopy.org>

Advantages to joining the DCR Greening Gateway Cities Program in 2021



- In 2019 the initial non-profit grants were concluding. Materials had been created, videos planned and animations **ready to go**.
- In 2020 we were faced with the challenges of **Covid-19**. DCR needed to add more **functionality** to the website so that tree selection and interaction could be done **safely**.

BRANDING for the Greening Gateways Cities



<https://www.maurbancanopy.org>



Michael Griffin – DCR Forester

Designated Planting Zone

Parts of Gateway Cities are targeted that have lower tree canopy, older housing stock, higher wind speeds, and a larger renter population.

Goal: Increase TREE CANOPY over an entire neighborhood area

Benefits:

- lowers wind speeds
- reduces summertime air temperature
- Increases direct shading
- reduces household heating and cooling energy use

Estimated that every 1% increase in tree canopy above a minimum 10% canopy cover brings a 1.9% reduction in energy needs for cooling and up to a 1.1% reduction in energy for heating.

All households in a neighborhood benefit, not just the ones with trees directly adjacent.



GREENING
THE GATEWAY CITIES
MA Urban Canopy Project

The Process – the property's owners choice

Michael Griffin – DCR Forester

DCR plants trees (ranging from 6ft to 10ft tall) with a goal of covering 5-10% of the target neighborhoods in new tree canopy.





Results Across the City

Michael Griffin – DCR Forester



In high-density urban neighborhoods, planting an average of 5-10 trees per acre (roughly one third of a block) will provide benefits to 15 –25 households, depending on building density. Most trees are planted in yards where they grow quickly with the care provided by residents. Planting this number of trees will increase canopy by an estimated 1% in eight years, and 10% in 30 years. Return on investment is realized as soon as 15 years, after which additional energy savings are realized for the life of the trees.



“Right Tree, Right Place”

number of trees that will reasonably fit in a planting location
within the Designated Planting Zone

<https://www.maurbancanopy.org/town/salem/>

Am I In The Zone?



Building Tree Canopy

<https://www.maurbancanopy.org/town/salem/>



NOT in
Designated
Planting Zone

Ward 6 P1 & 2
Ward 3 P2
Ward 1 P1

*Salem Sound
Coastwatch will
email each
councilor directly
sending links and
the Ward map.*



City's Parallel Tree Program

If NOT in Designated Planting Zone

Other Opportunities to Expand Tree Coverage

Bob LeBlanc

seeclickfix.com



GGCP Outreach Schedule

March – Press Release – Salem News, Salem Gazette,
Salem Patch, SATV

April – Earth Day and Arbor Day Events –

DCR will plant at Witchcraft, Carlton, Saltonstall
City – Bob LeBlanc - will plant at Bates

Presentations to the following:

- Monthly update to Tree Commission
- City Council
- Salem Housing Authority
- SERC – April 28
- Neighborhood Associations

Ramp up social media –
find friendly network to spread the word

2021 Farmers Market tabling with materials and banner





Direct Mailer


Mail to 3400 residents
in the planting zone
AND
Landlords



SALEM

Money does grow on trees!
Save \$413 on cooling and heating costs.

Call 617-626-1502 or visit MAUrbanCanopy.org



SALEM

ACT NOW!
It's easy and free!
Simply call: 617-626-1502
or visit maurbancanopy.org

To enjoy the benefits of:

- a more attractive yard
- increased property value
- a healthier environment
- cleaner air
- energy cost savings

PLANTING ZONE

GREENING THE GATEWAY CITIES
MA Urban Canopy Project

MA Department of Conservation
Urban & Community Forestry
251 Causeway Street
Boston, MA 02114



GREENING THE GATEWAY CITIES
MA Urban Canopy Project

FREE TREES!

Sign up now for a free tree from the Greening of the Gateway Cities program! Each tree is 6'-10" tall, valued at \$250, and planted in your yard by a trained forestry crew. Over time, trees provide savings in energy costs (increased tree canopy cover reduces energy use for heating and cooling). Adding trees improves the appearance of your yard and provides health benefits too!

The savings stated are estimates. Actual savings may vary based on species of tree, orientation and building structure. Energy savings are estimated using the US Forest Service's "Tree Designer" software. The figure is an average estimate of energy savings generated by an individual tree in a community in Massachusetts over a 30 year period.

Need to get Landlord names
and addresses for those
in the planting zone



Door Stickers

Stick to the front door

Backside in
Spanish
Portuguese
Albanian



Social Media – Getting the Word out to Residents





Century Tree Program Salem 400th Anniversary 1626-2026

Darleen Melis – Chair of the Tree Commission

Purpose: To celebrate Salem's 400th anniversary by planting the next generation of tall majestic trees in locations where they may flourish throughout the 21st century

Recommendation Process:

- Salem citizens may recommend sites throughout the city on public or private land, visible from a public right of way, where the trees may mature into their natural tall form. The Tree Warden and Tree Commission will select sites for the annual planting.
- A Century Tree program tag will identify each tree.
- Trees on private property will be planted by the city and monitored for two years during establishment. Thereafter, the private property owner will maintain the tree.



Help Us Get Greening Salem off to a Great Start

