



KIMBERLEY DRISCOLL  
MAYOR

## CITY OF SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS

### TREE COMMISSION

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DARLEEN MELIS, CHAIR  
KIRT RIEDER, VICE CHAIR

ROBERT LEBLANC, TREE WARDEN

### MINUTES OF THE SALEM TREE COMMISSION

**October 19, 2020**

A meeting of the Salem Tree Commission was held on October 19, 2020 at 7:00 p.m., via ZOOM, an online video conference call system. Present on call were:

Chair Darleen Melis, Vice Chair Kirt Rieder, Members: Joshua Arenstam, Naomi Cottrell, Curtis Dragon, Paul L'Heureux, Rachel McCarter, David Rowand, Susan Yochelson and Tree Warden Robert LeBlanc and Commission Clerk Joanne Roomey.

#### **1. Tree Warden's Report**

- The MVP planting grant project is complete. The porous pavement around the tree pits has been added and the brickwork around the trees straightened out.
- The Community Block Development Grant - no new developments for Spring 2021.
- The DCR Challenge Grant field work will begin in October and the completion will be by the end of November. This will yield more tree planting locations for Spring 2021 and beyond.
- The Fall planting began October 19, 2020 and Mr. LeBlanc anticipates that the list given to the contractor will be completed by the end of the week. The list was modified several times due to positive gas leak tests, resident refusals and underground utilities discovered during the Dig Safe process.
- An update on the Public Shade Tree Hearing that took place on August 5, 2020. The developer, Juniper Point, has finally submitted a landscape plan that will include the installation of three (3) new trees on Bridge Street and two (2) new trees on Cross Street with the planting total of these trees, it will equal the caliper inches lost for the request to take down the Red Maple on the Saunders Street/Cross Street section of the project. Mr. LeBlanc is waiting for a response from the Mayor on issuing a permit for this to go forward.

- National Grid has begun work on the overhead distribution lines in the city. This work is scheduled through the end of the year. They have had on average two (2) trimming crews working each day. All ward councilors have been notified through the city and NGRID has been notifying the residents through their own outreach program.

**2. DCR Urban and Community Challenge Grant – James MacArthur, Professional Environmental Services**

The DCR Challenge Grant field work has started and the completion will be by the end of November. This will yield more tree planting locations for Spring 2021 and beyond.

James MacArthur, Owner of Professional Environmental Services, LLC is the past State Urban Forester, National Grid Vegetation Supervisor and Business Manager presented a tree planting survey plan and recommendations that included: Overlay Analysis; Survey Data Collection Form categories; and Mitigating the Heat Island Effect. He also discussed the volunteer piece for the grant and will incorporate it into the guide. Mr. MacArthur will be conducting a detailed assessment of the available tree planting locations throughout the city. His survey will look at identified heat island areas as well as providing the right tree for the right location. He will research the areas in the city where gas leaks have been reported and will make recommendations for difficult planting locations due to overhead wires and other physical limitations to planting trees.

**3. Greening of the Gateway Cities discussion – Mr. Andy DeSantis, former Tree Warden for the City of Chelsea, Saugus Tree Committee member**

The Greening of the Gateway Cities program is still moving forward. To date there has not been an official announcement from the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs or the State DCR for this timetable on the start-up on this project.

Mr. DeSantis was on the call. He was the assistant Director of Public Works for the City of Chelsea. Chelsea was the first city in the state to have the "Greening of the Gateway Cities" program. He worked with the DCR and the volunteer groups from Chelsea in the planting process in 2012-2015.

**4. Remarks from the Public: None**

**5. Approve Tree Commission Minutes of September 21, 2020:** Mr. Arenstam moved to approve the September 21, 2020 Tree Commission Minutes. Mr. L'Heureux seconded. A roll call vote was taken, Ms. Yochelson abstained, and the motion carried with eight votes in favor.

**6. Salem Tree Fund – Century Tree sites planted fall 2020 - more sites needed**

The commission discussed more locations for Century Trees, which will be funded by the Salem Tree Fund donations for the 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in the amount of approximately \$5,000.00. Mr. Arenstam suggested to do more public relations for advertising, possibly start an Instagram.

**7. Tree Replacement Funds - review of accounting process**

The commission discussed the Tree Replacement Revolving Fund Locations. They will utilize both the Salem Donation funds with the Tree Replacement funds. Mr. LeBlanc will review and verify the amounts in both these funds and will follow-up with the commission.

**8. Review Tree Care document**

The commission finalized the Do's and Don'ts of Caring for Newly Planted Trees and it is ready to be posted on the website. The commission will also make flyers to distribute to residents.

**9. Election of Tree Commission Chair and Vice Chair**

The commission discussed how a chair is selected and if they wanted to continue with the current structure.

- Mr. Arenstam made a motion to keep the current structure for Darleen Melis as chair and to review this matter annually. Mr. Rowand seconded. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion carried unanimously.
- Ms. Cottrell made a motion to keep the current structure for Mr. Rieder as vice chair and to review this matter annually. Mr. Arenstam seconded. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion carried unanimously.

**10. New Business:** None

**11. Next Meeting Dates:** Monday, November 16, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. via ZOOM and Monday, December 21, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. via ZOOM.

**12. Adjournment:** Mr. Rieder made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Arenstam. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne M. Roomey  
Commission Clerk

**Know your rights under the Open Meeting Law M.G.L. c. 30A §18-25 and  
City Ordinance Sections 2-2028 through 2-2033**