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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
November 16, 2020

A meeting of the Salem Tree Commission was held on November 16, 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

- No new updates on the 2021 application for a CBDG Grant for tree planting.
- James MacArthur, Professional Environmental Services, is working on the DCR Challenge Grant survey to identify suitable, street tree planting locations. He will also make recommendations for choice of tree species. There has been a small delay and Mr. MacArthur will pick up on the Salem field work next week. He is planning on presenting his updates and looking for feedback from the commission at the December meeting.
- The fall planting is completed for 2020. The watering services have been suspended until the spring. The drip irrigation bags on the trees will be collected and stored for the winter.
- The Salem Tree Crew are working on a long list of tree pruning and some hazard tree removals. This is regular maintenance that goes on year-round and right now the list of work is large.
- Mr. LeBlanc is waiting for an updated response from the mayor on issuing a permit to go forward on the Public Shade Tree Hearing that took place on August 5, 2020. He anticipates some movement and closure on this hearing issue this week. Mr. LeBlanc will correspond with all those people who participated in the hearing about the results.

- National Grid has been working in the city now for the past month and Mr. LeBlanc has not received any serious complaints about the operations. He has received a couple of calls about getting assistance for work related to line clearance and the NGRID arborist has responded with help to residents. One tree on Loring Ave. was identified by a resident that threatened a utility pole and the overhead service. NGRID looked at the tree and said they would address the removal, saving the city from a contracted service.
- The Tree City USA application portal is open and Salem will apply for the renewal of our designation as a Tree City USA 2020. This should be completed by year's end.

2. Greening of the Gateway Cities

Mr. LeBlanc has no new updates for the Greening of the Gateway Cities program, but once he gets any new information, he will inform the commission.

3. Remarks from the Public - None

4. Approve Tree Commission Minutes of October 19, 2020

Mr. Rieder made a motion to approve the Tree Commission Minutes of October 19, 2020. Seconded by Mr. Arenstam. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion carried unanimously except for Ms. Cottrell's abstention.

5. Salem Tree Fund - Century Tree sites for spring 2021 - PR

The commission discussed site specific tree tags that would have the city seal on them etched by laser. The commission will start doing a test run in spring for suitable locations and will send to the Tree Warden for approval.

6. Tree Care document - how to distribute

The commission discussed how to distribute the completed Do's and Don'ts of the "Newly Planted Tree Care Guide" that are available in both English and Spanish. They decided to place them in common areas such as: City Hall, the Library and at DPW. They suggested performing an E-Alert through the city's website, mailing or distributing the guides to residents' homes as well as posting the documents on the Tree Commission website using special, color thumbnail images to draw attention to the material.

7. Set 2021 meeting calendar

The commission set the meeting calendar for 2021 for meetings to be held the third Monday of the month and if the meeting falls on a Monday holiday, it will be scheduled for the following day, Tuesday.

Mr. Arenstam made a motion to approve the new policy. Seconded by Mr. Rieder. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Cottrell proposed, and Mr. Dragon seconded, changing the meeting time from 7:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion carried unanimously.

8. New Business

Mr. Arenstam is still interested in launching an Instagram account about city tree matters and will check with City Hall about any requirements.

9. Next Meeting Dates - NOTE NEW START TIME

Monday, December 21, 2020 at **6:00 p.m.** via ZOOM and Tuesday, January 19 at **6:00 p.m.** via ZOOM.

10. Adjournment - Mr. Arenstam made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Rowand. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:50 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**