



KIMBERLEY DRISCOLL  
MAYOR

CITY OF SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS  
**TREE COMMISSION**  
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DARLEEN MELIS, CHAIR  
KIRT RIEDER, VICE CHAIR

ROBERT LEBLANC, TREE WARDEN

***Touch the Future - Plant a Tree***

**MINUTES OF THE SALEM TREE COMMISSION  
February 16, 2021**

A meeting of the Salem Tree Commission was held on February 16, 2021 at 6:00 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. Remarks from Mayor Kimberley Driscoll:** Mayor Driscoll attended the February meeting and expressed her support and appreciation for all the hard work and dedication that the commission has undertaken in the past year and for the Greening of the Gateway Cities Program that has now officially launched. She encouraged everyone to continue advancing this important work and consider the community message and where we all want the city to be in 2026.

**2. Tree Warden's Report**

Grant Updates:

- One signature page in the Greening of the Gateway Cities application was returned and Mr. LeBlanc is waiting on the final signature to get going on the proposed work. No updates on the CBDG Grant program for the spring.
- The Salem tree crew is performing winter tree maintenance and pruning. Tomorrow the tree crew will take a four-hour block of training on Electrical Hazard Awareness (EHAP). This is the first phase and the second phase will involve aerial rescue and be scheduled later.
- National Grid has completed the citywide circuit trimming. To date there have been no incidents related to tree work. Not sure what happened in 2017.
- The Tree City U.S.A. application has been submitted and Arbor Day will be scheduled for the last Friday in April, the 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- Mr. LeBlanc is presently in discussions with Gas Safety Inc. about the testing for the tree plantings in Salem moving forward. The city applied for a grant last year to purchase a gas leak detector but did not get it. There are a couple of options regarding training, purchase of equipment and the extent and scope of the gas survey before a decision is made.

3. **Greening of the Gateway Cities - Barbara Warren, Salem Sound Coastwatch - Community Outreach**

Barbara Warren introduced herself and gave everyone on the commission a brief description of her background. She began by telling the group that the Greening of the Gateway Cities Program came from the devastation inflicted by the Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB) in Worcester. Several thousand trees were cut down and the neighborhoods reported that the temperatures during the summer months were elevated due to the loss of tree canopy. This program has as much to do with energy conservation as it does with aesthetic improvements to our communities.

Ms. Warren then launched a PowerPoint presentation about the Greening of the Gateway Cities Program. Ms. Warren said the key to this program is the “Right Tree for the Right Place.” Ms. Melis agreed with all the comments that Ms. Warren made and then stated that she is looking forward to the GGC program and the collaboration with Salem Sound **Coastwatch** on this effort. Ms. Melis invited Ms. Warren back to the commission meeting for March and Ms. Warren said she will have regular updates for the commission.
4. **DCR Urban and Community Challenge Grant:** Ms. Melis checked with everyone to make sure they had their ward assignments for updating the Urban Tree Inventory and reminded members to maintain their log of volunteer hours. Mr. Dragon volunteered to take Ward 4, Precinct 1.
5. **Remarks from the Public:** None
6. **Approve Tree Commission Minutes of January 19, 2021**

Mr. L’Heureux made a motion to approve the Tree Commission Minutes of January 19, 2021. Seconded by Mr. Arenstam. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion carried unanimously.
7. **Salem Tree Fund – Century Tree sites for spring 2021 – PR efforts - Ongoing**
8. **Century Tree tagging event with Mayor Driscoll**

This event with Mayor Driscoll on Tuesday, February 23, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. is all set. Ms. Melis reported she has been in touch with the mayor’s office and the property owners for the photo shoot. Ms. Melis will act as the official photographer.
9. **Tree Commission Letterhead - LOGO:** The chair presented to the commission the proposed logo for the letterhead, which was taken from The Salem Tree Fund webpage. “*Touch the Future - Donate a Tree.*” The group discussed this slogan and how it may be interpreted by the Salem public. Finally, another slogan was put forward, “*Touch the Future - Plant a Tree.*” Mr. Rieder made a motion to adopt the second logo for the letterhead, Mr. Arenstam seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion carried unanimously.
10. **New Business - None**
11. **Next Meeting Dates:** Monday, **March 15, 2021** at 6:00 p.m. via ZOOM and Monday, **April 19, 2021** at 6:00 p.m. via ZOOM.

- 12. Adjournment** - Mr. Rieder made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Rowand. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:15 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**