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ROBERT LEBLANC, TREE WARDEN

Touch the Future - Plant a Tree

**MINUTES OF THE SALEM TREE COMMISSION
MARCH 15, 2021**

A meeting of the Salem Tree Commission was held on March 15, 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 and Susan Yochelson; Tree Warden Robert LeBlanc and Commission Clerk Joanne Roomey. Guests: Barbara Warren, Salem Sound Coastwatch; DCR Foresters for Salem, Michael C. Griffin and David Bresnahan.

1. Tree Warden's Report

- Mr. LeBlanc is working on four (4) separate planting lists for the spring
- Public Works Planting Program (20)
- Community Block Development Grant Planting List (17)
- Greening of the Gateway Cities, R.O.W. planting List (48)
- The Century Tree Planting List (2), and a special planting project that the Mayor is looking to do.
- The designation as a Tree City USA was confirmed by the DCR and we should expect to be awarded the renewal in the spring some time. This is Salem's 17th year. This is based on the records that the National Arbor Day Foundation has and the continuous participation in the program. There may have been some breaks in the years, to only have (17).
- One tree was lost on North St. from the weekend's high wind event. Several locations with broken branches, no personal or property damage.
- The tree budget line item for tree care is extremely depleted at this time. There are approximately (90) days to go until the end of the fiscal year.

2. Greening of the Gateway Cities

Barbara Warren, who in addition to being the Executive Director of Salem Sound Coastwatch is the Regional Coordinator of the MassBays National Estuary Program, spoke with the commission regarding the community outreach program. She has written a press release to officially announce the commencement of the program, which will be posted on city websites. She, Bob LeBlanc, Darleen Melis and the DCR foresters will present the program to Ward 6 Councillor, Megan Riccardi at the Public Health, Safety & Environment, City Council subcommittee meeting on March 23rd. (On March 25th, Councillor Riccardi made an enthusiastic and very clear presentation to the City Council where the program was well received. Council members are looking forward to receiving their personal briefing from Ms. Warren along with the ward maps of the Planting Zone.)

A next step is to prepare a targeted mailing to property owners located within the Planting Zone. In what might be considered a demonstration, the landlord of 10 Federal Street, where SSC is located, has signed up for 9 DCR trees as a buffer against the heat zone of the Almy's parking lot across the street.

Ms. Warren reported back on several questions from the prior meeting:

- Parks and schools are categorized as city tree lands.
- The DCR line between the 2,000 private trees and the 400 city trees is not a hard one.
- DCR includes native tree species among its offerings.
- Pioneer Terrace is within the Planting Zone and it is expected that Cathy Hoog, Executive Director of the Salem Housing Authority will meet with the foresters.
- The caliper of trees to be planted on private property will be 1-1.5" and trees planted in public spaces will be 2-2.5", either B&B or in grow bags.

The first plantings in mid-April will be along Lafayette and Bridge Streets. For Arbor Day, Michael Griffin and David Bresnahan will plant at three school locations:

- Carlton Innovation School, 10 Skerry Street
- Saltonstall School, 211 Lafayette Street
- Witchcraft Heights Elementary School, 1 Frederick Street
- Bob LeBlanc will plant a tree at Bates School.

Ms. Warren, Ms. Melis and Mr. LeBlanc will go together for the site visits and will speak with the schools.

3. DCR Urban and Community Challenge Grant

Mr. LeBlanc has been having ongoing meetings with Mr. MacArthur regarding the field work on the survey and they are in touch on a regular basis.

4. Plans for Arbor Day – Friday, April 30, 2021

The Mayor has signed the Arbor Day proclamation for 2021. As specified by the Arbor Day Foundation and the state, the last Friday of April the 30th is Arbor Day in Salem. Arbor Day is a day throughout the nation to encourage the planting of shade and forest trees and to encourage the harvest of our forest crops by approved conservation methods. Mr. Rieder read the Proclamation. For more information, click on the link below:

https://www.salem.com/sites/g/files/vyhlf3756/f/news/arbor_day_2021_proclamation.pdf

5. Remarks from the Public: None

6. Approve Tree Commission Minutes of February 16, 2021

Mr. Arenstam made a motion to approve the Tree Commission Minutes of February 16, 2021. Seconded by Mr. Dragon. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion carried unanimously.

7. Salem Tree Fund – Century Tree sites for spring 2021

The commission has plans to plant Century Trees at two locations. The first one is at the Emerton House, which is located at 12 Hawthorne Blvd., and they have asked for a Green Pillar Oak. The other location, if there is room, will be at 22 Albion Street and will plant a White Oak or a Tulip Tree.

8. New Business: None

9. Next Meeting Dates: **Tuesday, April 20, 2021** at 6:00 p.m. and **Monday, May 17, 2021** at 6:00 p.m. via ZOOM.

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