



KIMBERLEY DRISCOLL  
MAYOR

CITY OF SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS  
**TREE COMMISSION**  
57 ORNE STREET  
SALEM, MA 01970  
TEL. 978-745-0195 FAX 978-741-7041

DARLEEN MELIS, CHAIR  
KIRT RIEDER, VICE CHAIR

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

**MINUTES OF THE SALEM TREE COMMISSION  
NOVEMBER 21, 2022**

A meeting of the Salem Tree Commission was held on November 21, 2022, at 7:00 p.m., in person at City Hall Annex, 98 Washington Street and via remote participation in accordance with a Chapter 107 of the Act of 2022. Present were:

Chair Darleen Melis, Vice Chair Kirt Rieder; Members: Naomi Cottrell, Cady Goldfield, Paul L'Heureux, Rachel McCarter, Jane Rumrill and Susan Yochelson; Raymond Jodoin, Director of Operations, DPS and Commission Clerk Joanne Roomey.

**1. Introduction of new Tree Commission members Cady Goldfield and Jane Rumrill**

Jane Rumrill introduced herself and said she has lived in Salem for over eight years. She works for a conservation organization and loves trees. She is happy to help in any way.

Cady Goldfield also introduced herself and said she is a professional Horticulturist and is self-employed. She teaches the Horticulture Program at North Shore Community College and has been involved with trees for many years in a professional and personal capacity.

**2. Director of Operations, Department of Public Services Report – Ray Jodoin**

**a. INTERNAL TREE CREW UPDATE**

- To date they have had 63 new requests submitted since the last commission meeting. A list of 39 completed and closed requests was distributed to the commission. In addition, 12 more work orders were completed that are not on the list.
- There is a backlog of 95 requests as of this report.

**b. GREENING THE GATEWAY CITIES PROGRAM REPORT (GGCP)**

They are working with Dave Bresnahan on a few projects. Their next meeting will be held in the end of February or beginning of March 2023.

- Church Street parking lot project: plantings will be on the Church Street side of the parking lot as well as the Federal Street side. Final numbers and locations are still being worked out. The city may remove the privet hedge on the western side of the lot and assess what can be done with this area, updates to follow. The work is scheduled for Spring 2023. Funding to assist in the project – expansion of pits, soil improvement comes from the GGCP for approximately \$16,000.
- Collins Middle School parking lot/Broad Street Playground is another project slated for Spring 2023. They have a conceptual plan to plant five or so trees along the

residential side of the park. They will have to try some test pits first to confirm this is a viable planting location, updates to follow. Mr. Jodoin will work with Trish O'Brien to place this project the Park and Recreation Commission's agenda in the next few months.

- The Broad Street/Collins Middle School planting will be the 2023 Arbor Day school project.

c. GONYEA PARK REPORT

Plantings are approved for the park use area, as long as the root balls for those plantings are less than three feet below grade. Planned tree locations should be reviewed prior to planting. (See attached Gonyea Park Plan submitted to and approved by Park and Recreation Commission – January 14, 2022)

Research of the site at MassDEP provided the attached site plan (See Fig. 4 – Well Point Locations) which depicts the approximate locations of six monitoring wells (including well clusters) on the park use area of the Gonyea Park parcel. For now, they recommend that no new tree plantings occur at the park where monitoring wells are shown. They are planning what is needed for sampling groundwater.

The soils beneath the landscaped/terraced areas and the sloped backyard areas of Woodbury Court (the “non-park use” portion of the Gonyea Park parcel) require additional investigations that are ongoing.

Subject to their findings, they will look to close out the site release with a Permanent Solution Statement with an Activity Use Limitation (AUL) in late Spring 2023, at least for the park use portion of the release site.

d. YMCA PARKING LOT PROJECT

This project is slated for Fall 2023. David Kucharsky, Director of Traffic & Parking, may change the parking lot layout, which could affect planting. An update will come shortly.

e. LAPPIN PARK PROJECT

Two trees have died and been removed due to the Ash Borer Beetle damage. The rest of the trees are infected and will eventually perish. Mr. Jodoin would like to look at what is best for this site. He will be looking to present to the SRA and DRB shortly on a plan to push this project forward. Update to follow shortly.

f. MAYOR SALVO BIKE PATH

David Knowlton worked with the contractor, Macomber on replacing trees that were planted incorrectly. This work was scheduled on November 22, 2022 and should be completed. Mr. Jodoin has not yet inspected the work.

g. CAPTAIN DUSTY'S

John Bartlett dropped off a check in the amount of \$2,700.00 to the City of Salem. These funds were deposited in the Tree Replacement Fund. The amount was levied because a Protected Tree was removed from his property without a Tree Permit.

h. RILEY PLAZA

The city is looking to revitalize this area using CBDG funding augmented by city staff. Recommendations for replacement of the crabapples will be entertained. Spring 2023 planting is expected. Updates to follow.

i. ON CALL TREE WARDEN SERVICES

The city has retained Richard Renard for Tree Warden services on a part-time basis during the vacancy left by Robert Leblanc.

j. THE FALL 2022 PLANTING IS COMPLETE

Thirty-two trees were planted and supervised by Curtis Dragon who was retained by the city for supervision. The total for this project was approximately \$32,000, which is \$1,000.00 per tree not counting aftercare.

k. BRIDGE STREET RAMP PLANTING REQUEST FROM KIRT RIEDER

Mr. Jodoin will look into this request and work with Mr. Rieder on the row of trees closest to the courthouse. There will be a partial double row of trees to be designed and installed by the developer of the Crescent Street Lot on the side of ramp closest to the river. In addition, the developer of the former HMA lot will pay the city to install trees on the steep slope facing its land.

l. SHETLAND PROPERTIES ONLINE PERMIT # DPST – 22-16

- Asking to remove two trees at 35 Congress Street to install signage.
- The two trees are located in the protected zone 20 feet from right of way. This may come back in front of the commission as a tree hearing. Mr. Jodoin will keep the commission informed and send an official letter to the applicant to inform them about the ordinance protection for these huge trees.

m. SPRING PLANTING 2023

They are just getting started on looking at how this will shape up with the other planting projects. Going forward, the goal is to concentrate in wards that are not in the CBDG and GGC planting areas. The city councillors have been contacted to help identify planting locations.

**3. Greening the Gateway Cities Program – DCR Forester, David Bresnahan**

Ms. Melis read a letter from Mr. Bresnahan:

Due to the severe drought status through the summer and fall, the Greening the Gateway Cities Program did not plant trees in Salem this fall. The planting crew instead worked on Public tree maintenance and community outreach.

We have created a backlog of 150+ trees on private properties.

I will be working with Salem DPS to collaborate on Public tree plantings around the Church Street parking lot and the Sewall Street/YMCA lot. Another possible project to mitigate the heat island effect, is planting on the large green strip that abuts the Collins Middle School parking lot on Jackson Street. That project will depend on approval from the Parks and Recreation Commission and confirmed interest from the School department. The project would serve as a great project to kick off Arbor Day / Arbor Week in April 2023. In addition to these projects, I have requests from 4

residents to plant in the abutting public right-of-way, including existing green strips and possibly cutting blacktop /remediating soil to create space for a new tree.

I want to give recognition to Kathy Hoog and Gary Dean of Salem Housing Authority, and their maintenance crews for keeping the newly planted trees at Rainbow, Pioneer and Bertram Terrace alive through the drought. I also want to thank my planting crew and Salem DPS for all their hard work keeping our newly planted street trees healthy.

I will be available this winter to conduct in person site visits to add to the backlog for the Spring 2023 planting season.

Dave Bresnahan and Barbara Warren will be at the Tree Commission's January meeting.

#### **4. Emerald Ash Borer Beetle – Advisory to the community**

Ms. Melis reiterated the Salem Tree Ordinance, Sec. 43-10 regarding the Tree Commission's role is to assist the Tree Warden in carrying out the Tree Warden's duties and responsibilities. Until the commission gets a Certified Arborist/Tree Warden, they cannot make decisions regarding treating the ash trees. Ms. Yochelson suggested paying an arborist to make decisions and asked Mr. Jodoin if there was any money in the budget to pay for this. Mr. Jodoin said he has 62 reports for trees and has to prioritize but will look into it.

Ms. Melis wants to put out an advisory to inform Salem property owners about these beetles: <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/planthealth/plant-pest-and-disease-programs/pests-and-diseases/emerald-ash-borer>. Also, property owners are encouraged to visit the Salem Tree Commission website: <https://www.salemma.gov/tree-commission> for other helpful information.

#### **5. Salem Common – Darleen Melis update**

Ms. Melis sent a letter to Councillors Watson-Felt and Hapworth, Superintendent O'Brien and Project Manager Crounse regarding purchasing, protecting and planting new trees in the Salem Common this spring and requested that they seek additional funding that that the project's entire list of trees may be planted. As soon as Ms. Melis gets a response, she will update the commission.

#### **6. Tree Commission member discussion – interests and concerns**

**Cady Goldfield:** Her main concern is the new Beech Leaf Drop Disease (BLD). The disease causes damage to a tree's leaves, leading to reduced vigor and can eventually lead to trees dying. Since beech trees can live 200+ years, they have significant economic value.

**Jane Rumrill:** Community outreach. She would like to keep getting folks to attend meetings and make people aware of how to request trees and to keep them healthy.

**Darleen Melis:** The Tree Commission website that has been built over the last three years is helpful to the community. The next step seems to be involving the community in tree planting and care similar to the activities of the Northampton Tree Warden.

**Paul L'Heureux:** He was disappointed that Tree Warden Bob LeBlanc left as he was always helpful and got back to him in a timely manner. When Paul did the planting survey in the spring, he was upset to find that most of the trees were planted incorrectly - too deep and with mulch volcanoes. He wanted to stress how valuable a certified arborist as a Tree

Warden is and focus on hiring someone as soon as possible, as the Tree Commission's responsibility is to **ASSIST** the Tree Warden in carrying out the Tree Warden's duties and responsibilities.

**Susan Yochelson:** She wants to educate folks as Tree Stewards to take care of trees and to help them thrive, as well as increasing the tree canopy in Salem.

**Rachel McCarter:** She has the same concerns as Mr. L'Heureux regarding hiring a certified arborist as a Tree Warden. She wants to encourage proper tree planting in order to avoid the same results as the Canal Street project.

**Kirt Rieder:** He also agreed with Paul for the need of a full-time Tree Warden. He suggested planting new shade trees with the proper amount of soil and not trying to fix old diseased trees.

**Naomi Cottrell:** Need a Tree Warden that is not a shared position with the Cemetery Department. She suggested increasing the salary range to get more qualified applicants.

**7. Approve Tree Commission Minutes of September 19, 2022**

Mr. Rieder made a motion to approve the Amended Tree Commission Meeting Minutes of September 19, 2022. Seconded by Ms. Cottrell. A roll call vote was taken, Ms. Rumrill and Ms. Goldfield abstained, six members were in favor, the motion carried.

**8. New Business:**

Hold elections for Chair and Vice Chair at the December's Tree Commission meeting.

**9. Next Meeting Date: Monday, December 19, 2022 and Tuesday January 17, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.**

Mr. Rieder made a motion to have the meetings via ZOOM until March 31, 2023, in accordance with Chapter 107 of the Act of 2022. Seconded by Ms. Cottrell. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion carried unanimously.

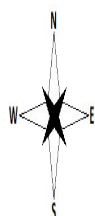
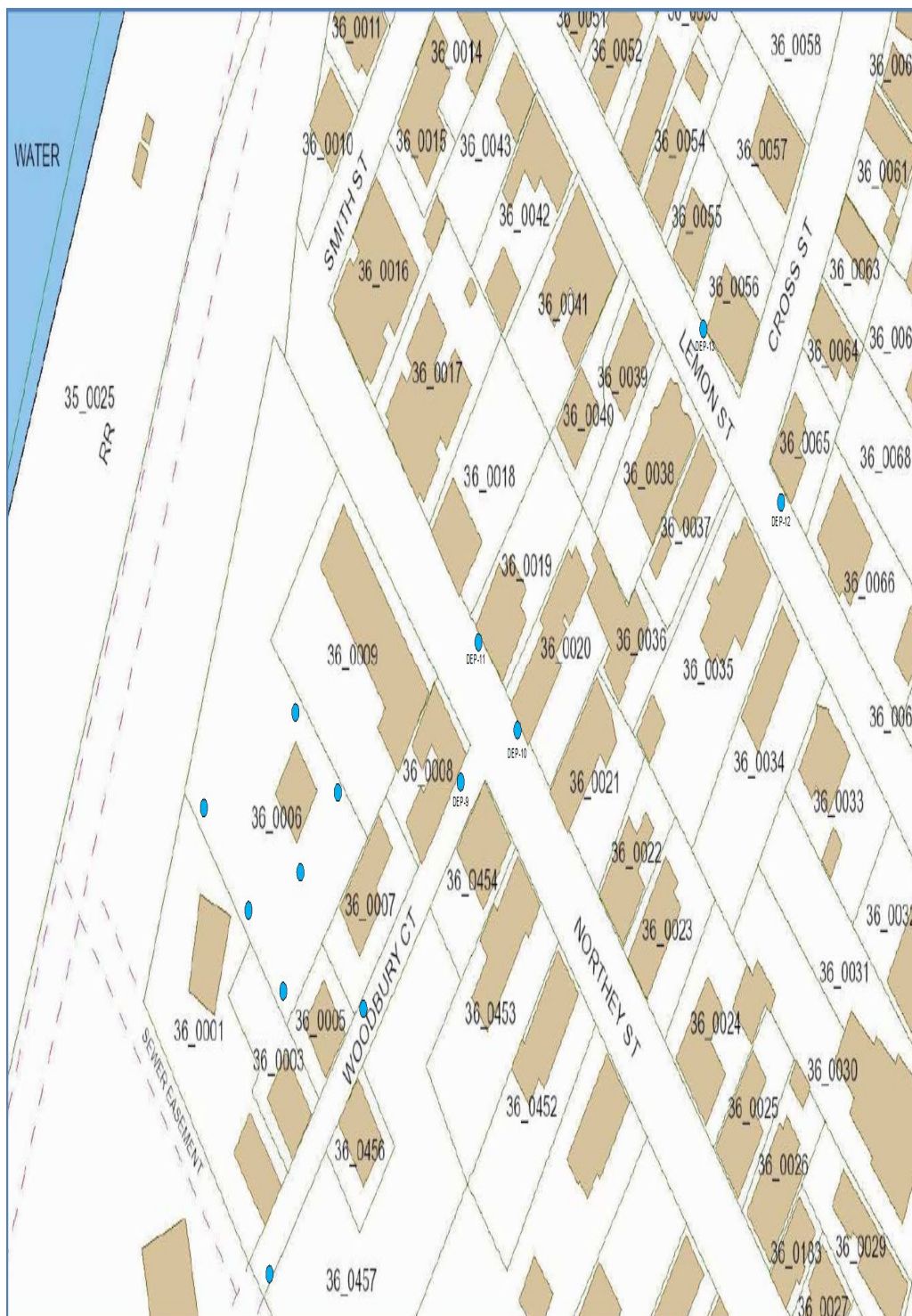
**10. Adjournment:** There being no further business to come before the Tree Commission this evening, Mr. Rieder moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Ms. Cottrell. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

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**





**Legend**

● Well Point

**Figure 4- Well Point Locations  
(Approximate)**

Former Salem Gas Light Company  
41 Northey Street, Salem  
RTN: 3-30119

Gonyea Park Plan submitted to and approved by Park and Recreation Commission – January 14, 2022

