



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

ROBERT MCCARTHY
ACTING MAYOR

Touch the Future - Plant a Tree

MINUTES OF THE SALEM TREE COMMISSION JANUARY 9, 2023

A meeting of the Salem Tree Commission was held on January 9, 2023, at 7:00 p.m., via ZOOM, an online video conference call system in accordance with Chapter 107 of the Act of 2022.

Present on call 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. Raymond Jodoin, Director of Operations, Department of Public Services Report

- a. To date there are 73 open SeeClickFix requests, 35 of which have been completed.
- b. Staff assisted in taking down the Christmas tree at Lapin Park and Christmas wreaths across the city.
- c. Mayer Tree Service was contracted to remove six trees hazardous trees that posed an immediate threat to the community under Chapter 43 – TREES. Locations were 23 Cedar Street, 31 Forrester Street, 133 Fort Avenue, Franklin Court opposite 24 Foster Street and two trees at 2 Riverway in the Sunset Road tree lawn. Tree hearings were not held because Mr. Rennard determined they posed an immediate threat or danger.
- d. Project updates as of January 9, 2023:
 - Prime Holding Group: No response has been received regarding the letter they were sent denying permission to remove trees on Congress Street.
 - Lapin Park Project: Scope of work is still in development by Mr. Jodoin.
- e. North Shore CDC

There was extensive discussion about CDC construction projects on Peabody and Ward Streets and Leavitt Street.

- 25 – 32 Ward Street Construction Project: Ms. Melis reported that two mature, large caliper trees at 25 & 32 Ward that were not given permission for removal have been so highly damaged during construction that they may have to be removed. This could trigger fines and the CDC would have to appear before the Tree Commission. Mr. Jodoin agreed to have Mr. Rennard evaluate whether the

trees can be saved. If they come down, Mr. Rieder emphasized that replacement trees must be planted on site and not in another area. Prior to the commencement of construction, there were 4 tree pits on Ward and Peabody Streets.

Two trees have been previously removed from Peabody St. Replacements may have been planted at the corner of Ward and Peabody Sts. but documentation is needed.

- 47 Leavitt Street: Mr. Jodoin reported that CDC owes 2 trees for planting at this site. Caliper balance contribution to the Tree Replacement Fund for the trees that were removed has been received.

2. DCR Forester David Bresnahan, Greening the Gateway Cities Program

Mr. Bresnahan said fall 2022 planting was cancelled due to the drought. To date, 535 trees have been planted 438 on private property, 52 on public property (streets and schools) and 45 trees on Salem Housing Authority properties. Most plantings are in Ward 2; lowest is Ward 1, with only one tree planted so far. Challenges to planting in Ward 1 include: large amount of impervious surface, lack of plantable space, and large number of buildings that are not owner occupied. Plantings are of diverse species, following the 10, 20, 30 rule: no more than 10% single species, 20% from a single genus, and 30% from a single family.

DCR is working on a design for the Collins Middle School parking lot on Jackson Street, hoping to plant there for Arbor Day. This will be the largest school planting. Mr. Bresnahan will share the design with Ms. Melis who will make sure that relevant city officials will be informed.

3. DCR Implementation Application

Ms. Melis spoke about the new GGCP Implementation Grant for FY24 with funding up to \$100,000. The application is competitive and requires a detailed work plan including specific locations for tree planting. Planting is outside of the GGCP designated planting zone is a feature of the grant. Ms. Melis suggested using the survey document created by James MacArthur in 2021 that identified viable locations for future planting. She also asked for suggestions of walking routes that could be enhanced with trees (creating “Wellness Walking Streets”). She asked for a subcommittee to work on this project and asked that commission members send her ideas of locations to be used in the grant application.

4. Tree Planting Services Invitation for Bids, April 2022 – review pages 21 – 43

Ms. Melis reviewed pages 21 - 43 of the Invitation for Bids - Tree Planting Services Contract to ensure that requirements in the Tree Manual are followed. It was pointed out that the IFB is industry-wide and is the standard for the construction industry. Mr. Rieder noted that the requirement to provide 4 feet of walking space was identified as counterproductive. It was requested that the city change the wording in future contract negotiations to require only 3 feet of walking space, in line with the MA accessibility code. It was also suggested that the city provide a certified arborist who will ensure that the terms of the contract are being followed.

5. Tree Commission Member Discussion – Interests and Concerns

- Mr. L’Heureux had a question about Mr. Rennard’s status. Mr. Jodoin explained to the commission that Mr. Rennard is the “on-call” Tree Warden, available for a designated number of hours per month.
- Ms. Rumrill suggested preparing an outreach program now for the spring, letting homeowners know what’s available to them. She also suggested having Mr. Bresnahan make a presentation in the Point neighborhood to encourage GGCP plantings.

6. Approve Tree Commission Minutes of December 19, 2022

Mr. L’Heureux made a motion to approve the Tree Commission Meeting Minutes of December 19, 2022 with one correction. Seconded by Ms. Yochelson. A roll call vote was taken, Mr. Rieder abstained, and the motion was carried unanimously.

7. Old Business:

- Approve updated Tree Commission Schedule for 2023. Regular Tree Commission meetings are scheduled for the third Monday of the month. When the third Monday is a state or federal holiday, the TC meeting will be scheduled for the second Monday of the month.

Mr. Rieder made a motion not to meet in August 2023. Seconded by Ms. Yochelson. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion was carried unanimously.

- The commission discussed the election of the Tree Commission chair and vice chair. Mr. Rieder made a motion to keep the current slate of candidates with Ms. Melis as chair and Mr. Rieder as vice chair. Ms. Yochelson seconded. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion was carried unanimously.

8. Next Meeting Dates: Monday, February 13, 2023 and Monday March 19, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.

9. Adjournment: There being no further business to come before the Tree Commission this evening, Mr. Rieder moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Ms. Yochelson. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion was carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at **8:20 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne M. Roomey
Commission Clerk