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TREE COMMISSION
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DARLEEN MELIS, CHAIR
KIRT RIEDER, VICE CHAIR

Touch the Future - Plant a Tree

MINUTES OF THE SALEM TREE COMMISSION
February 13, 2023

A meeting of the Salem Tree Commission was held on February 13, 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:

1. 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.
2. **Raymond Jodoin, Director of Operations, Department of Public Services Report**
 - a. To date there are 59 open SeeClickFix requests with 10 open work orders. Twenty-three have been from this month.
 - i. DPS completed 39 SeeClickFix work orders for the month of January.
 - ii. The city has applied for a Greening the Gateway Cities Municipal Grant for \$30,000 to improve the site conditions for new DCR plantings.
 - iii. Planting at Church Street parking lot by DCR - the city is looking to install 26 trees around the parking lot area with city crew prepping the site before April 14th. Kirt Rieder requested that only 4 – 5 species be planted around the lot. DCR should start their planting of the site around the end of April.
 - iv. City is planning on planting approximately 20 trees around Riley Plaza. DCR will install the trees and the city crews will prep the site.
 - v. Planting at Broad Street Playground/Collins Middle School parking lot on Jackson Street will consist of five trees to be planted by DCR. The site will be prepped by city crews prior to the install date. This tree planting will serve as the city's Arbor Day event for April 28, 2023. The project still needs Parks and Recreation Commission approval.
 - b. North Shore Community Development
 - i. Update 2-1-2023: Received letter from North Shore Community Development regarding their request to remove two trees in front of 25 – 37 Ward Street. City will work on getting a tree hearing process set up for this request.

- ii. Update as of 1-9-23: Met with North Shore CDC on Ward Street project and asked them to submit a formal plan to the city to address the trees in front of their property that were damaged by falling construction debris. They will need to submit a formal plan for the TC to approve as they need to update multiple tree permits.
- iii. Violation on May 6, 2022 – illegal pruning: Property located at the corner of Leavitt and Congress Streets. A check was received on 12-19-22 for \$500.00.

3. Greening the Gateway Cities Program - Barbara Warren, Salem Sound Coastwatch – community outreach

Ms. Warren read a report from Mr. Bresnahan:

Looks like we are coming out of the drought and anticipating a strong Spring planting season in Salem.

DCR will work with Salem DPS to plant up to 50 public trees at Church St. lot and Riley Plaza.

We are aiming to have Arbor Day at the Collins Middle School parking lot on Jackson Street. DCR also plans to start planting at Gonyea park in May, as long as we have the green light from Parks & Recreation. Dave will order small caliper trees (1.5”) in order to avoid digging through the 3’ soil cap.

Nine shade trees are planned to go in at Dalton Residence (205 Bridge St.) and Morency Manor (45 St. Peter St.) in partnership with Salem Housing Authority.

Dave is available now to do in person site visits within the GGCP planting zone.

His team is funded to hire up to 6, long-term seasonal planting laborers. The term runs from the last week of March until Friday Nov 17. (35 weeks)

Positions are expected to post on the State’s hiring website soon.

4. DCR Implementation Grant Application – Review of planting areas in Wards 1, 4, 6 & 7

Mr. Jodoin together with the commission reviewed the viable tree planting locations identified by James MacArthur’s survey. The findings will guide the city’s DCR Implementation Grant application, which requires specific planting locations and species. The commission suggested picking big shade trees and native trees, such as the new hybrid American elms trees and not lacebark elms. Ms. Goldfield said she would be willing to give some recommendations in accordance with the Tree Manual.

Mr. Jodoin said he is willing to work with the commission and will take suggestions of tree species no later than Monday because time is of the essence to submit the application by the February 23 deadline. Mr. Jodoin asked the commission to write a letter of support to add to the grant and Ms. Melis agreed to do so.

5. Tree Commission member discussion – interests and concerns – Earth Day, April 22

Ms. Rumrill will try to get an educational speaker regarding the Ash Borer Beetle threat for an Earth Day event at Forrest River Park where there has been extensive damage from this pest.

6. Arbor Day April 28 – Planting at Broad Street Playground – Park & Rec. meeting Feb. 21 or March 21

In addition to the scheduled tree planting at the Broad Street Playground, Ms. Yochelson suggested making an Arbor Day poster that explains the right and wrong way to mulch trees. She also suggested that the commission reach out to folks like the Salem News, neighborhood associations, mayor's office, or any other groups like Next Door to get the word out electronically. Ms. Goldfield said we should think of some catchy phrases too. Ms. Yochelson, Ms. Melis and Ms. Rumrill will all work together to design, edit and reach out to folks.

7. Approve Tree Commission Minutes of January 9, 2023

Mr. Rieder made a motion to approve the Tree Commission Meeting Minutes of January 9, 2023. Seconded by Mr. L'Heureux. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion carried unanimously.

8. New Business:

Ms. Warren explained that the Conservation Agent, Kate Kennedy would like to meet with her and Ms. Melis in regard to Lee Fort Terrace and other coastal locations.

9. Next Meeting Dates: Monday, March 20, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom and Monday, April 10, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.

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. Goldfield. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion was carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at **8:15 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**