



KIMBERLEY DRISCOLL
MAYOR

CITY OF SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS

TREE COMMISSION

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DARLEEN MELIS, CHAIR
KIRT RIEDER, VICE CHAIR

ROBERT LEBLANC, TREE WARDEN

MINUTES OF THE SALEM TREE COMMISSION MAY 18, 2020

A meeting of the Salem Tree Commission was held on May 18, 2020 at 5:00 p.m., via ZOOM, an online video conference call system. Present on call were:

Chair Darleen Melis, Vice Chair Kirt Rieder, Members: Naomi Cottrell, Paul L'Heureux, Rachel McCarter and David Rowand; Tree Warden Robert LeBlanc and Commission Clerk Joanne Roomey. Absent were Joshua Arenstam and Curtis Dragon.

1. Tree Warden's Report

- Grant Updates:
 - Salem has been awarded a DCR Challenge Grant in the amount of \$7500. This is a matching grant with volunteer efforts to match the dollar amount. The usual value of volunteer time is approximately \$31 per hour which means that approximately 240 hours need to be contributed by the end date of the grant, December 31, 2021. The grant was written up as an inventory of open tree planting locations, with an analysis of those locations, combined with the proposals of new locations for future street trees.
 - The MVP planting grant project is underway. The tree pit locations around Old Town Hall have been prepped for planting and the rest of the trees will be installed within the next two weeks. The final tree pit treatment on this project is a resin bound material to cover the opening in the brick pavement to help eliminate soil compaction around the trees.
 - The Community Block Development Grant (CBDG) planting project is ready to kick off after the MVP planting project finishes. The list has been proofed and letters have been sent to residents on the tree planting locations. So far there have been (2) rejections by the homeowners for trees to be planted at the proposed sites
- The Spring planting list has been circulated to all the residents who have requested a tree through See Click Fix. Of that group, (1) has been rejected and there is a total of (33) on that list. This planting program will be in the middle to late June. Depending on the availability of trees at the nursery will dictate how many on this list get planted this spring. Covid-19 has changed

- the planting program, due to nursery production, the harvesting window and the ability to move the trees from fields to the distribution points. In all, about 100 trees will be planted this season.
- Planning Board
 - Mr. LeBlanc has had a meeting with the developer on Barnes Road. They have Bartlett Tree working on a full inventory of the potential trees to be impacted.
- Last week there was a meeting on-site at the development project at the corner of Washington Sq. East and Briggs St. called the Breakaway Luxury Apartments. There is one tree on the Briggs Street side that had been identified as a removal for this project. Mr. LeBlanc told the site contractors that the tree may be protected and saved. The developer will work with a local arborist for tree protection, some light pruning and then create a tree pit for the existing tree as part of the sidewalk construction.
- Tree Permits:
 - Right now, the permit for the Harbor Walk Project is still out and the contractor has planted a row of arborvitae along the back yards on Webb St. and planted (6) trees as part of the landscape plan. Three trees were planted along the walkway on Szetela Lane and (3) more trees in the new parking lot across the lane.
- Tree Removals/Stump Work
 - In the past month a total of (25) stumps were ground out in preparation of future planting locations.
- The trees that were donated to the City by the Institution for Savings have found homes in the following locations:
 - (2) Elm trees at #48 Lafayette St., next to the fire station
 - (3) Yoshino cherries at the traffic island at Memorial Drive and Szetela Lane
 - (2) Elm trees at Gonyea Park, Northey Street

Proposed:

- (2) Red maples at the Salem Witch House, 310 Essex St.
- (1) Red maple at the Salem Common (tentative)
- (2) Red maples at Derby Square
- (1) Elm tree at Derby Square
- (1) Yoshino cherry at 133 Washington St. planting bed
- (1) Cherry tree to be planted on Flint Street in front of 6 Harrington Court

2. Discussion of the DCR Urban and Community Challenge Grant

The Tree City USA meeting, held by DCR, was cancelled due to the Covid-19 and the Stay at Home Orders. Currently there is no alternate date for this event. Salem has been awarded the 2019 designation and new signage will be put out as soon as they are delivered.

Mr. LeBlanc plans on meeting with the survey consultants to discuss options for organizing the volunteers for the survey work and then will update the Tree Commission.

- 3. Remarks from the Public:** Susan Yochelson, was recognized. Ms. Yochelson expressed her concern about planting trees in front of Boston Burgers on Washington Street, she wanted to know how tall the cherry trees will grow. She said all the trees on Washington Street block the store fronts and is hoping that something taller can go there. Mr. LeBlanc said they would grow approximately 30 feet. Ms. Cottrell agreed with Ms. Yochelson. The Mayor requested the planting and was told that a Cherry tree was available. She said, "that would be great." Mr. Leblanc said the trees need to be planted, they are starting to dry out. Mr. Rieder agreed and said let's plant the Cherry tree.

Ms. Yochelson was appointed by the Mayor as an alternate member for the Tree Commission. She has experience in organizing volunteers and would be a great asset and addition to the commission. Welcome Susan!

- 4. Approve Minutes:** Mr. L'Heureux moved to approve the April 24, 2020 Tree Commission Minutes. Ms. Cottrell seconded. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion carried unanimously.

5. Century Tree Program – Institution for Savings donation of 15 trees

Mr. LeBlanc received a delivery of (15) trees from the Newburyport Bank and has planted:

- Three Yoshino cherry trees at the traffic island at the Bentley School at the confluence of Memorial Drive and Szetela Lane; one cherry at 133 Washington Street; and the last cherry on Flint Street in front of 6 Harrington Court.
- Two Princeton elms were planted on the east side of the fire house at 48 Lafayette St.; two elms were planted at Gonyea Park, end of Northey Street; and one elm was planted in the Salem Common, next to the play structure
- Two October Glory red maples were planted at 1 and 5 Derby Square; two maples were planted at the Jonathan Corwin House, Witch House Museum, 310 Essex Street; and one maple was planted in the Salem Common in alignment with 94 Washington Square East.

6. **New Business:** None
7. **Next Meeting Dates:** Monday, June 15, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. via ZOOM and Monday, July 20, 2020.
8. **Adjournment:** Mr. Rieder made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Rowand. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 6:15 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**