



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

July 20, 2020

A meeting of the Salem Tree Commission was held on July 20, 2020 at 7:00 p.m., via ZOOM, an online video conference call system. Present on call were:

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

1. Tree Warden's Report

- Grant Updates:
 - The MVP planting grant project is near completion, just waiting on responses from the RFP that was sent out. The most recent results of this bid process were that the sole bidder was way off on the numbers and the bid was rejected.
 - The Community Block Development Grant (CBDG) paperwork has been submitted for FY 2021 and we are waiting for word on the availability of funding and if Salem will be granted another round of grant money for low-income areas.
 - The Fall planting list is in the process of being assembled and right now the planting will be approximately between 25-30 trees.
 - A tree pruning permit will be issued to National Grid. After meetings with Grid representatives, the City Solicitor and myself, an agreement has been reached. The proposed start date will be October 1, 2020 and is scheduled to run through December 31, 2020.
- A Tree Hearing will be scheduled by the Tree Warden for August. This will be a combined hearing for two locations: (1) at 92 Washington Sq. East for a 15" dbh Maple tree and (2) at 106 Bridge St. for a 15" dbh Red Maple. Both projects are proposing replacement trees in the public right-of-way and additional plantings on-site to cover the caliper losses of the single trees.

2. DCR Urban and Community Challenge Grant - Survey

The DCR Challenge Grant that was awarded to Salem had some paperwork issues on the State's end. The form that had been sent out and signed was obsolete and DCR has asked for the City to re-sign this one sheet. I contacted the DCR and asked if this in any way impacted the scope of work or grant award and have been told absolutely, not. We cannot do anything until the papers are all signed. The grant has an end date of December 31, 2021.

3. Remarks from the Public: None

4. Approve Minutes: Mr. Rieder moved to approve the June 15, 2020 Tree Commission Minutes. Ms. McCarter seconded. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion carried unanimously.

5. Salem Tree Fund – Selection of Century Tree sites for September 2020 plantings

The Commission has roughly \$5,000.00 in the Salem Tree Fund. Different areas around the city were discussed where these funds might be used to plant thriving Century Trees. Mr. LeBlanc suggested the following sites:

- Szetela Lane - two locations setback on Ft. Lee Terrace lawn
- 19 – 21 Winter Street in the tree lawn
- 18 Broad Street on the Pickering House tree lawn
- Dalton Parkway; center planting island
- 3 Dalton Parkway setback on the lawn

Mr. Dragon moved to approve the locations for planting Century Trees. Mr. Rieder seconded. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion carried unanimously.

NOTE: Mr. LeBlanc will be investigating any proposed sites for their suitability. This is a multi-stage process of which the vote to narrow down the possible sites was a first step.

6. Tags for Century Trees

The Commission discussed different tree tags:

- Plaques in the ground or tags on a tree
- Embossed metal tags or plastic tags that can be etched with a city seal
- How to attach – coated wire, plastic ski tie
- Rounded or square corners

The Commission decided on square tags because you can have more information on them. Mr. Leblanc suggested mail ordering to an outside company that will make a template and mail back for review. This will be researched by Ms. Melis and Ms. Yochelson for a vendor to produce the tags and not use a catalog mail order company.

7. Consent Form for Century Tree Program

The purpose of the Century Tree Program is to celebrate Salem's 400th anniversary by planting the next generation of tall majestic trees in locations where they may flourish throughout the 21st century.

The Commission discussed sites for planting on public or private land. The Tree Warden and the Tree Commission will select sites for the annual planting. The Tree Warden will maintain and inspect the trees and will develop a relationship with the private property owners. At the end of the two years of City maintenance, the tree or trees will become the sole responsibility of the property owner. If the property consists of four or more dwelling units, the trees will be designated Protected Trees as per City of Salem Ordinance, Ch. 43, Article IV. Protected Tree Preservation.

Mr. Dragon moved to approve the Consent Form for Century Trees. Mr. Arenstam seconded. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion carried unanimously.

8. Tree Replacement Funds – How to use \$13,500 fund balance

Mr. LeBlanc recommended the below locations for potential tree plantings.

- 22 Albion St
- 2 Logan St. at Bow St
- 28 Japonica St
- 10 Japonica St
- 8 Hawthorne Blvd
- 15 Hawthorne Blvd (3) trees
- 33 Bridge St.
- 72 Bridge St.

10 trees x \$700/tree = \$7,000

Mr. Arenstam moved to approve the street tree replacement recommendations. Mr. L'Heureux seconded. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion carried unanimously.

- 9. New Business:** Discussion was initiated by Mr. Rieder regarding the Franklin St./Ferris junkyard development project and the concerns about a row of Maple trees on the property. Other discussions followed initiated by Ms. Yochelson regarding the Pioneer Terrace Housing area near Palmer Cove and the planned re-design of the area.

- 10. Next Meeting Dates:** Monday, August 17, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. via ZOOM and Monday, September 21, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. via ZOOM.

- 11. Adjournment:** Mr. Rieder made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Arenstam. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne M. Roomey
Commission Clerk