



KIMBERLEY DRISCOLL
MAYOR

CITY OF SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS

TREE COMMISSION

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DARLEEN MELIS, CHAIR
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ROBERT LEBLANC, TREE WARDEN

MINUTES OF THE SALEM TREE COMMISSION

September 21, 2020

A meeting of the Salem Tree Commission was held on September 21, 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 Tree Warden Robert LeBlanc and Commission Clerk Joanne Roomey. Absent were Naomi Cottrell and Susan Yochelson.

1. Tree Warden's Report

- Grant Updates:
 - The MVP planting grant project is near completion. The work to place the porous pavement around the tree pits will begin on October 5, 2020 and should be completed by the end of the week.
 - The Community Block Development Grant (CBDG) paperwork has been submitted, no word yet.
 - The fall planting list has been submitted to the planting contractor and right now the start date is the week of October 12th. (See list below.)
 - The list has already been modified due to positive gas leak tests. The next step is the Dig Safe clearance. The list as of tonight stands at (19). This number is down from last fall but reflects the budget cuts to the Tree Maintenance line item approved by City Council for the FY 2021 year.
 - The Public Shade Tree Hearing that took place on August 5th is still in the process of being resolved. The project at #94 Washington Square East presented a landscape plan for the removal of (1) street tree, with the replacement of caliper inches with (3) trees on site, the planting of another tree at 117 North Street, within the public ROW and the payment of \$450 to the Tree Replacement Fund account. This request has been completed. The Mayor signed off on the approval for a permit to be issued. The second request for the hearing at # 106 Bridge St. is still ongoing. The applicant has not finalized the full landscape plan. I have

consulted with other tree experts on the survivability of the tree in question and met on two occasions with the owners and the City Engineer to work out an acceptable plan. By the Salem Ordinance he is required to replace the tree he is looking to remove on an inch for inch caliper basis and I am pushing for more plantings or if necessary, a payment into the Tree Replacement Fund.

- National Grid will begin work on the overhead distribution lines in the city. This work is scheduled through the end of the year and depending on how they progress will determine the length of the time frame. M.G.L. chapter 87, sec. 14 has guidelines that must be followed by the utilities and the municipality. The reason this operation has taken so long to get approved is because I would not issue the utility a permit until they agreed to some conditions. This eventually came down to a conference call with the city solicitor, the utility lawyers, the utility arborist for N-Grid in our area and me. This operation is a necessary function from the standpoint of the city infrastructure, because with power outages, due to tree failure, we all are impacted and inconvenienced. For some people, this is a matter of life and death and power reliability is considered critical. Good arboricultural work and good future planning for tree planting by species and location selection are the two key factors in living with overhead wires.

2. DCR Urban and Community Challenge Grant

The DCR Challenge Grant that was awarded is set to begin the survey during the week of October 11, 2020. The Grant is for \$7,500 and the volunteer match is for \$7,500.

In the field analysis and validation, a set of variables will be utilized to target sound planting sites to meet the goals and intents of the tree planting plan while assuring that the sites will be sufficient for the trees being planted to survive and flourish. These variables will be entered into an Excel spreadsheet data file and include vulnerability location impact, Environmental Justice protocol, soil volume range, visual and safety impacts, ADA compatibility and Right Tree, Right Place variables. Each tree planting site will be located by GPS coordinates for entry into the Salem GIS database as a layer.

3. Remarks from the Public: None

- 4. Approve Minutes:** Mr. Arenstam moved to approve the August 17, 2020 Tree Commission Minutes. Mr. Rowand seconded. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion carried unanimously.

5. Greening of the Gateway Cities discussion

The Greening of the Gateway Cities program is still moving forward. To date there has not been an official announcement from the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, but grants have been offered to help supplement the first year of planting operations. Grants for \$20,000 from the municipal side and \$20,000 from the private/volunteer sector have been submitted for review and approval. Mr. LeBlanc's understanding is this will be an annual grant that will be offered.

Mr. Arenstam suggested talking to his city councillor to get her opinion on how to get in touch with neighborhood associations. Mr. LeBlanc wants to focus on neighborhoods' inner circles. He will reach out to former Tree Warden, Andy DeSantis of Chelsea and see if that community got involved with the planting or if DCR did most of the work. Mr. LeBlanc will ask the tree warden to join the Tree Commission Meeting for October.

6. Salem Tree Fund – Selection of Century Tree sites for fall 2020 plantings

The Commission discussed locations for Century Trees, which will be funded by the Salem Tree Fund donations for the 400th Anniversary in the amount of approximately \$5,000.00. The Commission had intended to plant a tulip tree at the Essex Law Library, but the court facility manager decided that the tree was too large for their site. The Commission suggested planting the tulip tree at 249 Lafayette Street instead.

Mr. Arenstam made a motion to approve planting the tulip tree at 249 Lafayette Street. Seconded by Mr. Rieder. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion carried unanimously.

7. Tree Replacement Funds discussion –

The Commission discussed the Tree Replacement Revolving Fund Locations regarding the 2020 funds of \$21,375.

Tree Replacement Revolving Fund Locations – Street Trees funded by payments to offset removal of healthy city trees.

	Street tree voted 7/20/20	Suggested by	Out or Inside the GGCP Borders
Hawthorne Blvd., Women's Friend	1	Sandi Power	In
72 Bridge Street	1	TW	In
22 Albion Street (However if in yard this would be CT)	1	Carly & Lev McClain	In
21 Winter Street - gas leak	1	Faith Cassidy	On the border
Bow Street area? Corner lawn-CT?	1	Sean Maher	Possibly Out
28 Japonica St.	1	Jennifer Carr	Out
10 Japonica St.	1	"	Out
15 Hawthorne Blvd. - Immaculate Conception parking lot sidewalk pits	3	TW	Out
33 Bridge Street	1	TW	Out-beyond Planters Lane
Total Tree Replacement Fund trees	11 trees		

Century Tree Locations - Funded by Salem Tree Fund donations for 400th Anniversary. Often located in setback to achieve proper soil volume. 2020 Funds -- \$5,000 approx.

	Street tree voted 7/20/20	Suggested by	Out or Inside the GGCP Borders
18 Broad Street, Pickering House – broad tree lawn	1	Tim Jenkins	Out
Setback on lawn 3 Dalton Parkway	1	Dan Sousa	In
Funds available for 5 more CT			
Post Office is separate donation.	2	Darleen Melis	In

8. New Business

Rachel McCarter presented a new Tree Commission publication about the DO's and DON'Ts of caring for new city trees. She explained that newly planted trees are under stress and need extra care. The first priority of a newly planted tree is to grow roots, which means you would not see much growth above ground for the first year or two. The commission reviewed the document and added suggestions. It will be presented for a vote at the next meeting.

9. Next Meeting Dates: Monday, October 19, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. via ZOOM and Monday, November 16, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. via ZOOM.

10. Adjournment: Mr. Rieder made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. L'Heureux. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

FY 2021 Tree Planting Locations Fall 2020

Tree #	#	Address	Comments	Species
1	2	Margin St. (CT)	Salem Post Office Left side/Front lawn	<i>Platanus acerifolia</i>
2	2	Margin St. (CT)	Salem Post Office Right side/Front lawn	<i>Platanus acerifolia</i>
3	8	Hawthorne Blvd.	Possibly (1) tree on the North side of the building	<i>Acer campestre</i>
4	15	Hawthorne Blvd.	3 X 5' tree pit	<i>Acer rubrum</i>
5	15	Hawthorne Blvd.	3 X 5' tree pit	<i>Acer rubrum</i>
6	15	Hawthorne Blvd.	4 X 15' tree pit/ lawn area	<i>Acer rubrum</i>
NA	19	Winter St.	Tree lawn/ OHW (small tree) OUT- GAS LEAK	<i>Acer campestre</i>
7	18	Broad St. (CT)	Tree lawn good site for large tree (Pickering House)	<i>Ulmus americana</i>
8	19	Warren St.	Grass strip	<i>Ulmus americana</i>
9	15	Warren St.	Good size tree lawn/ large tree	<i>Ulmus americana</i>
10	17	Warren St.	Good size tree lawn/ large tree	<i>Ulmus americana</i>
11	8	West Terrace	Small tree lawn/small tree	<i>Acer campestre</i>
12	20	Summit Ave.	Tree lawn/ redbud	<i>Cercis canadensis</i>
13	28	Summit Ave.	Tree Lawn/ <i>Amelanchier</i> request by resident	<i>Amelanchier sp.</i>
14	8	Brown St.	Brick walkway/ <i>Ginkgo</i>	<i>Ginkgo biloba</i>
15	3	Dalton Parkway (CT)	Set-back planting	<i>Cercidiphyllum japonicum</i>
16		249 Lafayette St.	Tree Lawn/tulip tree (Not CT- no consent form)	<i>Liriodendron</i>
		56 Federal St. (CT)	Essex Law Library - <i>different choice of tree requested</i>	<i>tulipifera</i>
17	6	Eden St.	Grass strip	<i>Amelanchier sp.</i>
18	68	Summer St.	Grass strip	<i>Acer campestre</i>
19	202	North St.	Grass strip	<i>Acer campestre</i>

9/11/20

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