



City of Salem, Massachusetts  
Mayor Dominick Pangallo

**Neighborhood Improvement Advisory Council - Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, June 5, 2024, 7:00 P.M.**

**Called to Order:** 7:00 p.m.

**Members Present:** Bill Colbert, Tom Kusterer, Dick Lindeman, Maria Buckley, Micah Hapworth

**Staff Present:** Lisa Peterson (Office of the Mayor)

**Special Guests:** Virginia 'Gini' Cherol – City of Salem 400+ Coordinator

**Approval of 4/17/24 Minutes** (Tom Kusterer moves, Micah Hapworth Seconds): 3 – 0 – 2, minutes approved.

**Virginia 'Gini' Cherol – City of Salem 400+ Coordinator** Presentation:

- Gini shared a presentation that included the goals of the Salem 400+ efforts;
- Mark your calendars! The Heritage Days Parade is slated to return to the City of Salem on August 2, 2026;
- Salem400.com is the new website for all things related to the upcoming celebrations;
- City of Salem 400+ celebrations will have a community focus. In commemoration of the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the City of Salem is investing in significant updates to the city's 6 'signature parks.' There will be encouragement of every neighborhood to host a block party. There will be efforts around activations of local parks. Neighborhoods are encouraged to begin thinking about creating a float for the Heritage Days parade. There will be a time capsule during 2026.
- Salem 400+ will include Signature events throughout the year.
- The next Stakeholder meeting will be in September.

**Neighborhood Association Updates:**

- **Barnes Clark Wyman Neighborhood Association (Bill Colbert):** There are signs regarding asbestos contamination on the property along 8-18 Barnes Road. The line painting on Clark Street and Barnes Road by Dunkin are really worn off. Trimming of brush along Clark and Barnes continues to be an issue. SeeClickFix – lights on Highland are not tripping easily. Tropical Products is going to offer meeting space to the neighborhood which is very exciting!
- **Downtown Neighborhood Association (Tom Kusterer):** Hotel Salem is going to host the neighborhood meetings (the first is June 11<sup>th</sup>). Where are school buses supposed to park on field trips? (Micah – shared that tour bus drivers don't know where to go when they come to town – can we use big digital signs to direct them?) Destination Salem should have info about where to park on their website and museums and tourist sites should have info on their websites regarding where to park.
- **Federal Street Neighborhood Association (Dick Lindeman):** There will be a neighborhood party on Saturday, June 22. There has been 'radio silence' on the neighborhood traffic calming program (Department of Transportation). Update on the project on Canal?
- **Salem Willows Neighborhood Association (Maria Buckley):** Webb & Essex has been blinking – it is not working at all – very dangerous. She does not love the traffic calming measures (complex). Seawall

– Columbus Ave (hope it will be soon). Would love to help with block parties and parade floats! The library fountain is back!

- **Salem Common Neighborhood Association (Micah Hapworth)**; The lampheads that were replaced were replaced with ‘comically small’ versions – they need to be fixed (and bright). They had been told that the Common playground surfacing would be fixed with the Winter Island surfacing leftovers (has not happened yet). They will be helping with hosting a movie on the night of the Juneteenth Jam (Black Panther). July 4<sup>th</sup> the Declaration of Independence will be read in the Common bandstand at 9:00am. Movie nights on the Common will happen on the following evenings: July 10, July 24, August 7 and August 21. September 14 will be the Vintage Lawn Party.

### **City Updates:**

- The Mayor celebrated Earth Day with his 2024 ‘State of the Environment’ in Salem message, listing so many efforts the city is taking toward protecting the planet (especially close to home). Just today on World Environment Day, he launched the Massachusetts Coastal Communities Alliance – which he invited all coastal mayors and town managers to join together with him in collaborating toward solutions, regarding the challenge and crisis of our time.
- Artists’ Row had its season opening and launch party.
- Salem will be hosting 28 middle school students this Summer from Ota City, Japan (our sister city) from July 21-30, for the 32<sup>nd</sup> year. The program is still seeking host families. The only requirement is the student has a bed of their own and families are willing to help facilitate drop off and pick up to the program each day in Salem.
- We’ve recently celebrated the AAPI and Pride flag raising and are looking forward to the Juneteenth Jam on July 18 (including a flag raising and lots of programming) and Pride weekend (June 21-23) with the Pride Parade on June 22.
- As we heard in a recent meeting, the Beautification Committee is still in search of more volunteers.
- The most recent version of the Mobile Mayor’s Office was May 21 at the CLC, and included a multi-generational visit/lunch.
- An Opioid Settlement Funds survey is online – everyone should take a few minutes to share your thoughts!
- The Swap & Drop returns to Salem Common this Saturday, June 8 from 10-1 (with a rain date of June 15)
- The Forest River Pool opens for the season June 15 & 16 weekend and daily starting on June 22.
- The Salem Trolley program is free to residents once again this season!
- The Food Policy Council is hosting a fun event for everyone called the ‘Longest Table.’ The Congress Street Bridge will be shut down on Saturday, June 15 from 11:00am-8:00pm and it will be catered by Root (the meal will be 4:00-6:00pm). It’s free, and all are welcome!
- It’s Salem Ferry season!
- Salem Skipper service has expanded to parts of Beverly and Danvers in collaboration with those communities.
- On June 27 from 1:30-3:00pm at the CLC, help us reimagine aging at a listening session – come share your thoughts!
- There will be a South Salem Commuter Rail Stop project neighborhood meeting Tuesday, June 18 6:00pm at Salem High School.

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, June 10, 2024, 7:00 p.m.

**Adjourned, 8:02pm.**