



City of Salem, Massachusetts  
Mayor Dominick Pangallo

**Neighborhood Improvement Advisory Council - Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, April 17, 2024, 7:00 P.M.**

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

**Members Present:** Phil Laffy, Nina Cohen, Gabe Ciociola, Bill Colbert, Tom Kusterer, Micah Hapworth, Wendy Meigs

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

**Special Guests:** Zach Schaad & Kim Parkinson – Salem Beautification Committee

**Approval of 3/13/24 Minutes** (Tom Kusterer moves, Bill Colbert Seconds): 7 – 0 – 0, minutes approved.

**Zach Schaad and Kim Parkinson, Beautification Committee Members, City of Salem** Presentation:

- Zach and Kim shared the mission statement of the Beautification Committee as well as several of their ongoing and upcoming programs. The Committee takes pride in the ‘Lady of Salem’ program, the Traffic Island program (for which sponsorship ranges from \$75-\$300 per island, depending on how involved the sponsor wants to be), Monthly Litter Cleanups (and the Great Salem Clean Up is this Saturday!) – there is a published schedule of ongoing cleanups, and the Window Box Competition.
- To learn more about their efforts, visit <https://salembeautification.com/> as well as the Facebook and Instagram pages for the Committee.
- Volunteers are much needed! Whether community members participate in an organized activity through the Beautification Committee, including updating your nearest traffic island, or picking up some trash with friends and neighbors, all efforts are very welcomed and encouraged!

**Neighborhood Association Updates:**

- **Barnes Clark Wyman Neighborhood Association (Bill Colbert):** It recently looked like the state was out timing the lights on Highland Ave.
- **Downtown Neighborhood Association (Tom Kusterer):** The neighborhood is requesting more trash cans or that they be emptied more frequently. They are also wondering about the status of benches on Essex Street. Tour guides have questions about the Tour Guide ordinance change proposed.
- **Salem Willows Neighborhood Association (Phil Laffy):** Regarding the question about trash barrels, Phil shared that he knows that DPS has mentioned that they are stretched really thin and it is a big challenge to add more barrels. Crowley (Joe St. Pierre) recently presented to the Willows Neighborhood (and Phil recommends Joe as a speaker to other associations for future meetings).
- **Salem Common Neighborhood Association (Gabe Ciociola & Micah Hapworth):** They are giving a shout out to DPS regarding the First Muster, as they have done a great job with the Common for that. They are hoping for more benches and concerned about the state of the benches around the Common. The SCNA will be hosting movie nights this Summer on occasional Wednesdays starting in July. The Lawn Party & Vintage Baseball Game is planned for September 7<sup>th</sup>.

## **City Updates:**

- City of Salem Scholarship applications still open until May 10<sup>th</sup>.
- The new City of Salem Poet Laureate program application period is live.
- We recently recognized ‘Have a Heart’ month with New England Donor Services – everyone be sure to check your ID to be sure you are signed up to be a donor.
- There are several new public art installations around Salem and in May, Julia Cseko becomes Salem’s 2024 Artist in Residence on Artists Row!
- Tomorrow evening, April 18, a public hearing will be held in City Hall Annex at 6:00pm to provide the public an opportunity to provide comment on the FY25 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME plans (in draft form). This will be one way you can weigh in on community housing and economic development plans – if you can’t make it tomorrow you can provide written comment by May 6.
- City of Salem’s Waste Reduction Coordinator Janelle Rolke was recently named ‘Keep Massachusetts Beautiful’ Municipal Partner of the Year!
- The City of Salem is seeking community members for the Crowley CBA working group.

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, May 8, 2024, 7:00 p.m.

**Adjourned.**