

Trustees of the Bathing Beach Report 2015

The Trustees of the Hingham Bathing Beach met monthly throughout 2015. Many of our meetings were held jointly with the Harbor Development Committee to help advance shared interests/concerns.

First and foremost, the Trustees would like to acknowledge and thank Joan Williams for her decades of service as a Trustee and as the "guardian of the beach". Her insight and experience with all things related to the bathing beach from budgeting, lifeguard hiring and scheduling to maintenance and programming to being our everyday eyes and ears on the beach were invaluable and will be missed.

We would like to thank the Hingham DPW for their efforts in: getting our parking lot ready for the season after the heaviest snow accumulation/"snow farm" stockpiling in Town history during the winter of 2014-2015; managing sand, grading and shaping the beach for the 2015 season; for their maintenance of the grass area along Route 3A and in the Grove area and for their coordination with our vendor's geese control program. Special kudos go out to our Town Engineer Roger Fernandes for his professional assistance and coordination of engineering for all our initiatives this past year including completion of the armor stone extension contract to protect the Grove area; drafting a beach management plan and getting it approved by all the necessary Town bodies; overseeing the engineering, bidding and contract execution for the parking lot stabilization/boardwalk project and for drafting a grant application to secure \$700,000 in funding from the Massachusetts Seaport Economic Council for a new multipurpose bath house/snack shop/community building (note: Seaport Council funding was approved in February 2016 and will come available in July).

2015 Town Meeting under TM Article 31 approved \$652,000 for the engineering, permitting and construction of a parking lot stabilization contract, parking lot reconfiguration, beachfront appropriate landscaping and the beginning of a long awaited harbor paver boardwalk. The project engineering was completed and bids received in the Fall were within the budget and this important work will be undertaken in the late Winter/Spring of 2016.

In September, the Trustees filed an application with the Community Preservation Committee for ~~\$150,000~~ [\\$70,000](#) in CPC funding to serve as a 20% match for the earlier referenced \$700,000 State grant request for a new building to house rest rooms, snack shop etc. This effort was undertaken after the Trustees were unable to finalize an agreement with the sole RFP respondent (Sullivan's of Castle Island) to have such a building financed and constructed privately under a long term land lease. Constructing the building including the shell of the food service area in advance of a future RFP should remove the prior obstacles to this project that was first envisioned in the 2007 Harbor Master Plan.

We would like to thank all the lifeguards and personnel who helped make our past season so successful and for helping our residents enjoy everything the beach has to offer.

On Saturdays during the season, the bathing beach parking lot is the home of the Hingham Farmer's Market which had its most successful season in 2015. Our parking lot also served the Touch a Truck Program and Christmas tree sales again in 2015.

The geese management program and grass spraying was extended to include the area from the Grove to the Iron Horse and noticeably improved the area as observed by the Farmer's Market and our beach users. We look forward to even greater success in 2016 as we continue to monitor this program.

At a joint meeting of the Bathing Beach Trustees in early December, Chris Daly, who had previously served for six years on the Harbor Development Committee, was unanimously approved to fill the vacancy created by Joan Williams' resignation.

Chris Daly [e](#)
Edward Johnson
Alan Perrault