

With The Tide

Friends of Lynn & Nahant Beach

Volume 1, Issue 1

Friends Receive State Matching Funds

The Friends received notification on October 31st that their proposal for creating and placing interpretative signs along Lynn Beach would come to fruition through a \$5000 matching fund from the state Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (EOEA). The state Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), which operates and maintains the Lynn Shores Reservation, is part of EOEA. The Friends had conversations with EOEA regarding the "Fix-It-First" Friends Matching Funds program in the spring. EOEA encouraged the Friends to discuss the program internally and consider applying for matching funds once the Fund application was released.

Creating and placing interpretative signs along the beaches has been a goal of the Friends for several years. Once the program application was released, several Friends members, including Douglas and Duncan Maitland, Paul Robertson, Catherine Foley, Michael Celona, and Bob Tucker researched and discussed ideas for the signs, and subsequently submitted an application. The sign topics proposed were: Marine Biology, Diamond District, Egg Rock, Lynn Shore Painters, Shorebirds, and Red Rock Geology. In addition, after conversations with EOEA, the Friends proposed the creation and installation of three welcome and informational signs along the Reservation.

Currently, there is only one welcome informational board, which is located at the entrance of Nahant Beach in Nahant.

Working with DCR staff, over the next several months, the Friends will craft language for signs and provide input on their design and placement. The Friends proposed placing them at various points (shown right) along the beaches. The Friends

will also work to raise funds from local businesses in order to help defray the cost of the signs. If interested in donating towards the interpretative sign project, please contact Bob Tucker or use the donation form on the back page.



Inside this issue:

<i>Concert Series</i>	2
<i>Beach Cleanups</i>	2
<i>Year of Change</i>	3
<i>Membership Increases</i>	3
<i>DCR Conversation</i>	4
<i>Proposed CVS</i>	4
<i>Nature notes</i>	5
<i>New Committees Formed</i>	6

Successful Summer Concert Series at Red Rock Park

The days were getting warmer, people were flocking to the beaches, and July 4th plans were being set. It was time for the beginning of the summer concert series at Red Rock Park. The series began on July 3rd, where thousands of people showed up to hear the music of the Squirrel Hill Olde Time Band. This set the tone for the entire series, as attendance was strong at each of the concerts, which took place every Thursday evening from July 3rd until August 24th. The concert series would not have been possible without the support of the Lynn Arts Council, Verizon, Lynn City Council, Camp, Dresser, and McKee Engineering, Mayor Edward Clancy, the volunteers who manned the refreshment table, and of course, our members. To see pictures of the concerts taken by Bob Dalederro (like the one shown here), go to our website at www.lynn-nahantbeach.org. Planning for next summer's concerts are underway. If you enjoyed a particular band, or have other suggestions, please contact Bob Tucker at robertftucker@aol.com or (781) 595-2119.



Beach Cleanups

Pursuant to our goal of a healthy and clean beach, the Friends sponsored or took part in two beach cleanups during the summer. On July 15th, the Friends sponsored a cleanup of Lynn Beach. Approximately 40 people, including members of the Friends, Boy Scout Troop 466, Girl Scout Troop 879, and Cub Scout Pack 22 spent several hours picking up debris along the beach. In the end, we collected over a dozen bags of garbage. Becky Stover and Catherine Foley organized and advertised the cleanup. After the cleanup, Catherine hosted a BBQ for those who took part. A big thank you to Becky and Catherine, those who took part in the cleanup, the DCR for supplying the bags, rakes, and stick picks and removing the trash, and the Lynn Daily Item and the Lynn Journal for providing free press releases. On September 9th, members of the Friends took to Lynn Beach again, in support of CoastSweep. CoastSweep is an international campaign organized by the Ocean Conservancy to monitor debris found on the world's beaches. Members of the Friends, along with boy scouts, the Wakefield Rotary Club, and others, collected over a dozen bags of garbage. Based on the two cleanups, it is clear that there is too much garbage on our beach. Garbage is not only unsightly, but it can be dangerous to marine (life six-pack ring holders can trap turtles, balloons can be swallowed by whales) and humans (dog waste is full of bacteria, broken glass can cut feet). A request: if you see trash on the ground, please dispose of it in a nearby trash barrel.

With The Tides Newsletter

This is the inaugural issue of the official Friends of Lynn & Nahant Beach newsletter, With The Tides. The newsletter will be issued several times a year and is a way to keep members informed of the many activities within the organization. Please let us know what you think of the newsletter— what you like, what you don't like, what you would like to see, etc. Also, would you rather receive future issues via email? Please send comments to Michael Celona at michaelcelona@yahoo.com or (978) 835 7724.

Year of Change for the Friends

Several important changes with the Friends took place in 2006. Robert Tucker was named President at the February meeting. Robert succeeded Paul Robertson, who headed the group since its inception in 1991. Robert is a resident of Lynn Shore Drive, former President of the Lynn City Council, and a frequent walker on the beach.

The standing board of directors, consisting of Robert (Chairman), Jerry Caron (Vice-Chairman), Jane Cahill (Treasurer), and Marie Kiley (Secretary), met in September and, consistent with the Friends by-laws, voted to appoint three new members to the open seats on the board of directors: Perry Wechsler, Catherine Foley, and Michael Celona. All three are relative newcomers to Lynn and have brought with them unbridled enthusiasm towards improving the Lynn Shores Reservation and Lynn, in general.

Perry lives in the Diamond District with his girlfriend and their Wheaton Terrier. They walk daily along the beach.

Catherine lives on Lynn Shore Drive. She is a sales representative for Jarrow Vitamins and can be seen near (but not on) the beach with her boxer Shekander.

Michael Celona lives on Woodlawn Street. He is an environmental health specialist with the state health department, an avid gardener, and enjoys walking the beach after work.

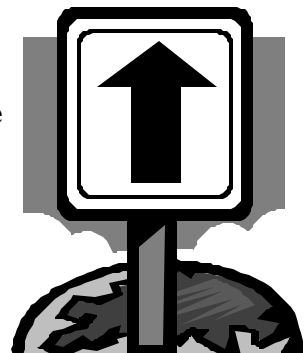
Finally, the Board of Directors invited the DCR to designate a representative to fill a non-voting Director's position. DCR accepted our invitation, and we welcome Gerard Lambert, Coastal District Manager for DCR's Division of Urban Parks and Recreation to our Board.

If you would like to contact the board members, their contact information is:

Robert Tucker, President:	(781) 595-2119	robertftucker@aol.com
Jerry Caron, Vice President:	(781) 595-2200	glcaroncpa@earthlink.net
Jane Cahill, Treasurer:	(781) 593-8913	
Marie Kiley, Secretary:	(781) 595-1294	marie_l_kiley@yahoo.com
Perry Wechsler:		pjwxa@yahoo.com
Catherine Foley:		succeed57@aol.com
Michael Celona:	(978) 835-7724	michaelcelona@yahoo.com

Friends Membership Increases

Year over year memberships in the Friends has increased. Total memberships in December 2005 was 85 and in December 2006 was 128. A review of the membership rolls found that a majority of members live in Lynn. Based on the numbers of people from surrounding communities that frequent the beaches, the newly formed Membership and Fundraising Committee will be working on increasing memberships in Nahant and Swampscott, as well as Lynn (see related story on the back page).



New Committees Formed

After reviewing the Friends' bylaws, the Board was reminded that the bylaws describe three standing committees: the Fundraising and Membership Committee, the Publicity, Activities and Events Committee, and the Restoration, Development, and Government Relations Committee. The goals of the Fundraising and Membership Committee include planning fundraisers and increasing the number of members. The goals of the Publicity, Activities, and Events Committee include planning activities and events, and ensuring that they are well publicized. Finally, the goals of the Restoration, Development, and Government Relations Committee include improving communication between the Friends and DCR. The committees are forming now and will be meeting in the coming months. We need additional volunteers for all of these committees. No minimum time commitment is necessary. Strong committees will enable us to continue to grow and have a positive impact on the area. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Bob Tucker or a board member.

Friends Oppose Proposed CVS Development

The Friends, at a meeting on June 14, 2006, voted to oppose the development of a CVS Pharmacy where the Christie's Restaurant and a few boarded-up residential buildings now stand adjacent to the Nahant Rotary. The owners of the property (which consists of four lots) have entered into a lease arrangement with CVS. The essence of their proposed development is that CVS would demolish the restaurant and the boarded-up buildings and then construct a CVS Drug Store on the site. The property is located in an R-5 High Rise Building District (a residential designation) under the zoning code of the City of Lynn. No business use, other than a hotel is permitted in such an area. The current restaurant is permitted to exist on one of the lots because this nonconforming use was in existence prior to the promulgation of Lynn's zoning ordinance. The owners of the land sought a variance from the Lynn Zoning Board of Appeals (the "ZBA") to permit them to extend the nonconforming business use to the residentially zoned adjacent three lots of land which they also own. An overwhelming majority of the members of the Friends voiced concerns about the proposal, and spoke in opposition to this proposed development on such an important beach-front property at the June 14th meeting. [In a report by Sasaki Associates, a firm hired by the City of Lynn to evaluate its zoning ordinance and potential future development, this beach-front location at the Nahant Rotary was deemed one of the three most important landmark sites in Lynn.] The proposed commercial use would increase traffic in a very congested and dangerous rotary. A CVS or similar type of commercial use would add significant amount of traffic during all times of the day, and especially peak commuting hours. Additionally, the environmental impact on the beach and the surrounding residential and historic neighborhood would be potentially devastating.

At the ZBA hearing on June 20, 2006, President Bob Tucker, representing the Friends, spoke in opposition to this development proposal. At the end of the meeting, the ZBA voted 5-0 rejecting the variance request. The property owners (and CVS) have appealed the decision of the ZBA to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Land Court Department of the Trial Court. To be continued...

Nature Notes by TJ Cullinane

Many Friends of Lynn and Nahant Beach are drawn to the shore to enjoy the best Mother Nature has to offer. The Summer of 2006 did not disappoint. Read on for some highlights from last summer's birding, fishing and shelling season.

Birding - A quartet of strikingly marked **Ruddy Turnstones** made Red Rock their home away from home for much of August and September. A resident **Mockingbird** was present all summer and was frequently seen fly catching throughout Red Rock Park. **Double-Crested Cormorants** hunting off the rock averaged one fish every ten dives, usually small eels. They had to swallow them down quick upon surfacing or risk losing their catch to a marauding **Great Black Backed Gull**...

Harbor Side Beach across the Nahant Causeway from the Ward Bath House had some uncommon visitors this summer, including a pair of **Lesser-Yellow Legs**; a **Savannah Sparrow** and a gorgeous **Black-Bellied Plover**. **Mourning Doves** were also frequently spotted at Harbor Side with many of their brethren content to browse on lawns throughout the Diamond District. A sizeable **Red-Tailed Hawk** was seen perched in a large tree near the intersection of Ocean and Nahant Streets in late May, doves beware...

Bay Ducks like the **Black Scoter** were first spotted in Nahant Bay on August 30, and will steadfastly remain with us throughout the coming winter.

Fishing - The sea wall gang enjoyed a very good season with sporadic periods of blistering **Striper** action. Tara Cleary was fortunate enough to take in an awesome Striper blitz while walking her lovable pooch Sadie on the morning of August 18. Stretching from Red Rock to the Half-Way House, the sea churned as thousands of schoolie bass feasted on dense schools of Peanut **Bunker**. Hundreds of the unfortunate baitfish chose to beach themselves rather than fall prey to the frenzied stripers, a boon to the waiting **Herring Gulls**. A 52" Striper was the largest of about a dozen or so keepers taken this summer. **Bluefish** arrived late this year and didn't spend much time inshore. One sea wall regular who managed to pull in a 44 incher was astounded to find a 12" schoolie in the big blue's gullet...

Fluke and **Conger Eels** were taken infrequently off the wall, but, as usual, there was no shortage of **Little Skates**.

Shelling - Large quantities of big **Surf Clams** were available on all beaches this summer to the delight of North Shore kids and tourists alike. The mud flats of Harbor Side Beach yielded a few rarities, including two complete **Baltic Macomas**, the single valve of an unidentified **Astarte Clam**, and the single valve of a very large **Deep Sea Scallop**. There's plenty of great shelling to look forward to in upcoming months with winter seas bound to yield some well-preserved **Neptune Whelks** (the State Shell of Massachusetts), **Northern Whelks**, and dare I dream, an intact **Stimpson's Colus**...

This winter be on the look out for **Harbor Seals** at Sea Port Landing behind Lynn Heritage State Park. You'll see them occasionally in March hunting off Red Rock as they get ready to move north. As for me, I'm impatiently waiting the arrival of my favorite winter duck, the delightful **Bufflehead**. That's all for this column, see you on the beach!

Have a question about the column or a nature note you'd like to share? Please e-mail T.J. at tjandteresac@hotmail.com.

Friends Continue Conversations with DCR

The Friends and DCR continue to communicate and work together on a number of issues involving Lynn Shores Reservation. In the spring, members of the Friends along with Representatives Steven Walsh and Douglas Peterson and Senator Thomas McGee met with DCR staff at Lynn Beach to discuss the upcoming beach season and the need to continue frequent algae removal. It was confirmed that similar to last year, the algae would be removed on a twice weekly basis.



department of Conservation and Recreation

DCR staff attended several of the Friends bimonthly meetings and provided members with updates on certain activities (landscaping, algae removal). This also gave members a chance to ask questions and voice concerns. This helped in getting the crosswalks on Lynn Shore Drive repainted.

DCR staff supported the Friends in other areas. They provided technical support during the Summer Concert Series by setting up and running the audio equipment and stage. During the Friends sponsored cleanup of Lynn Beach, DCR contributed supplies and removed the bags of refuse that were collected.

Looking ahead, the Friends will continue to communicate with DCR, and we will be working closely with them on the Interpretative Sign Project.

In summary, the Friends would like to thank the DCR staff for working with us throughout the past year. The staff have done a great job, especially given the inadequate funding level of the parks system in Massachusetts.

Editor: Michael Celona
Phone: 978 835 7724

REMINDER: Regular meetings are held every other month on the second Wednesday at 7PM at the Diamond District Bed and Breakfast at 142 Ocean Street in Lynn. In 2007, the meetings will be in February, April, June, August, October, and December.

Join the Friends of Lynn & Nahant Beach

____ Yes, I would like to join the Friends of Lynn & Nahant Beach. Membership entitles you to:

- An invitation to exclusive programs and special events
- Periodic updates on our progress and the condition of the Beaches
- The satisfaction of knowing that you are acting locally to impact the environment in a positive way.

Membership

- __ Individual: \$25
- __ Student/Senior: \$15
- __ Family: \$50
- __ Corporate: \$100
- __ Sponsor: \$200

I am already a member. Please accept my gift of \$_____.

Name: _____

Address:

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Mail To:

Membership

Friends of Lynn & Nahant Beach

P.O. Box 2264

Lynn, MA 01903