

With The Tide

Friends of Lynn & Nahant Beach

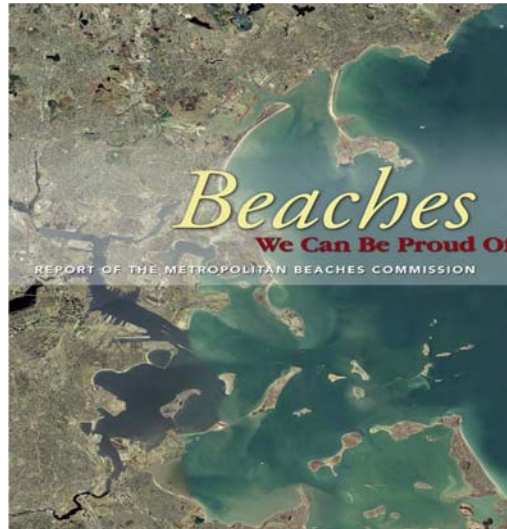
Metropolitan Beaches Commission Releases Report

The Metropolitan Beaches Commission, which was created by the Legislature in 2006 to examine issues surrounding public beaches in the metropolitan Boston area, released its report in early April. Citing a consistent lack of funding that has crippled the ability of the state Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) to manage the park system and failed to build on the enormous success of a cleaner Boston Harbor, the report includes specific recommendations that would improve the operations of DCR and solidify the active involvement of cities and Friends groups in the management and maintenance of the beaches.

The Commission was co-chaired by Senator Jack Hart and Representative Anthony Petrucci and included Friends members Senator Thomas McGee and Tony Lozzi. The Commission held open meetings in most of the nine communities that were included in their assessment, including Lynn. At these meetings, elected officials, civic leaders, and residents spoke out about various issues and concerns. Breakout sessions at the meetings allowed everyone to highlight the positives and negatives at each beach.

Friends President Bob Tucker provided testimony at the Lynn meeting on the partnership between the Friends and DCR that has resulted in better landscaping, a successful summer concert series, and \$11 million in Reservation improvements. However, Bob noted the more recent reductions in the DCR budget and staff and the resulting difficulty in maintaining the parks.

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Metropolitan Beaches Commission Releases Report (cont.)

The report highlighted overriding comments given at the breakout session during the Lynn meeting. The comments below are what many participants had to say about what is working well at Lynn Shores and Nahant Beach Reservations, and what is not.

What's Working Well

- Swimmable beach
- Landscaping at Red Rock
- Resource for migrating birds
- Summer Concert Series
- Police Patrols

What's Not Working

- Ward Bathhouse— lack of working bathrooms and water fountains
- Nahant causeway in poor condition
- Insufficient maintenance
- Not enforced litter and dog rules and sand cleaned infrequently
- Algae smell

As you can see, many of these highlight the same issues that the Friends and its members have been working on for years. We have been the force behind a lot of what is working well at the beaches and we know the continuing challenges ahead of us.

The Commission Report concludes with five key recommendations, which are:

1. Provide additional resources for beach maintenance and operations;
2. Strengthen capabilities of Friends groups and community-based partnerships to work with and support the DCR;
3. Fund planned, promised, and needed capital improvements;
4. Establish a Metropolitan Beach Advisory Board to work with DCR and the communities to ensure advocacy, resources, accountability, and implementation of Commission recommendations; and
5. Secure a commitment from the state Executive Office of Environmental Affairs to report to the Commission and the communities within 60 days on the administration's plan for addressing the Commissions findings.

Legislation has been introduced in the Legislature that would enact several of these recommendations. Feel free to contact your elected representatives and senators to voice your support. Thanks again to Senator McGee and Tony Lozzi for their work on the Commission.

With The Tide Newsletter

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.

Summer Calendar

Events

Saturday, June 9– Nahant SWIM co-sponsored beach cleanup/Earth Day celebration. Meet at Coast Guard Station. Music, food, and merriment. Rain date: June 10th.

Saturday, June 23- Friends of Lynn & Nahant Beach-sponsored Beach Cleanup. 9-12. Meet at the Ward Bathhouse. Supplies and refreshments will be provided. Rain date: June 24. For more information, call 978 835 7724.

Saturday, August 4– Meet Me Downtown Festival. Friends of Lynn and Nahant Beach will have a table at the Festival. Live music, arts, and food.

Saturday, August 18- Friends of Lynn & Nahant Beach-sponsored Beach Cleanup. 9-12. Meet at the Ward Bathhouse. Supplies and refreshments will be provided. Rain date: August 19. For more information, call 978 835 7724.

Concerts

Tuesday, July 3- Evening Concert Featuring Squirrel Hill Old Time Band and Fireworks at Red Rock Park. 7PM.

Thursday, July 12- Concert at Red Rock Park Featuring 12:01 Blues Band.

Thursday, July 19- Concert at Red Rock Park Featuring Brian Maes.

Thursday, July 26- Concert at Red Rock Park Featuring Kirsten Manville & Dave Simmons plus Friends.

Thursday, August 2- Concert at Red Rock Park Featuring Billy McGhee Quartet.

Thursday, August 9- Concert at Red Rock Park Featuring White Lightnin’.

Thursday, August 16- Concert at Red Rock Park Featuring Curragh’s Fancy.

Thursday, August 23- Concert at Red Rock Park Featuring Lois Lane & the Daily Planets.

Concerts are from **6-8PM** unless otherwise noted. Light refreshments available for purchase.

THANK YOU TO OUR SUMMER CONCERT SPONSORS!

Mayor Edward “Chip” Clancy

Lynn City Council

Lynn Daily Item

Tides Restaurant and Pub

Camp Dresser & McKee

Verizon

MA Dept of Conservation and Recreation

Massachusetts Cultural Council/Lynn Arts Council

Spring Beach Cleanup

On Saturday, April 14, members of the Friends joined with members of the Lynn Time Bank to conduct an early spring cleanup of Nahant Beach. The Lynn Time Bank (www.lynnertimebank.org) is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to “build community through neighbors helping neighbors, exchanging skills and talents.” The Time Bank approached the Friends about holding the cleanup and we gladly agreed to help. In addition, two DCR rangers also participated in the cleanup. We collected over 20 bags of garbage, along with several larger items (parts of a boat, driftwood). The rangers were also able to explain the dangers of beach trash and the importance of protecting the dunes. A big thank you to all who participated!



Lynn Shores Reservation Receives Additional Funding

The Friends received news in early spring that Lynn Shores Reservation had received additional funding from the Legislature. An earmark in one of the budget bills had allocated \$55,000 for the Reservation. DCR North Coastal District Manager Jerry Lambert (who also serves as the DCR representative on the Board of Directors) inquired as to how the Board would like to see the money spent. The Board members agreed that the money should be spent on new trash receptacles. Working with Jerry, the Board identified an attractive black metal receptacle that would be permanently placed along the Reservation. The receptacles would be secured by cement bases. Based on the cost of the receptacles and their bases, DCR ordered 30 of them and are currently waiting on a contractor to install the concrete bases. It is unclear if the receptacles will be installed by the summer.



The state legislative delegation also earmarked \$95,000 for landscaping. McNulty Landscaping is the company who will be landscaping Lynn Shores Reservation. They have done a wonderful job the past few years and we thank them for all their extra effort that beautifies the area. We also want to thank our local legislators— Representative Robert Fennell, Representative Doug Peterson, Representative Steven Walsh, and Senator Tom McGee for directing much-needed funds to the Reservation. Thank You!

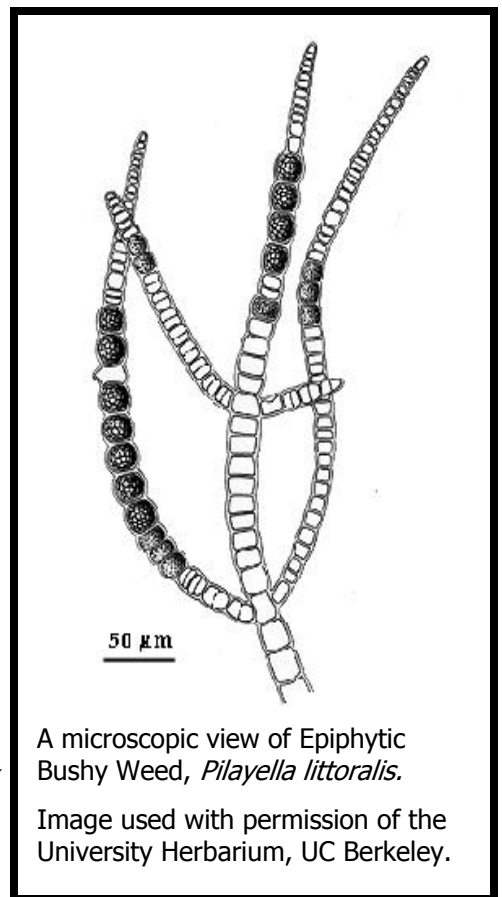
Brown Tide – Nuisance Seaweed in Nahant Bay

Epiphytic Bushy Weed, *Pilayella littoralis*, the nuisance seaweed of Nahant Bay, has plagued beachside residents and visitors alike since 1903. In this edition's *Nature Notes*, T.J. Cullinane provides a close-up look of these mutant algae.

Epiphytic Bushy Weed or Sea Felt, is more commonly referred to as “muck”, “gunk” or far less polite names. A tiny, filamentous brown algae, the word epiphytic refers to organisms that grow or attach themselves to living plants. In Nahant Bay however, Bushy Weed has mutated into a free-living form that can produce mats of a 100 tons or more. As the mats are cast onto the beach, the top layers smother the bottom layers, killing them off, and producing a terrible odor that has become a seasonal aggravation for the residents of Lynn Shore Drive and the surrounding Diamond District. The problem is especially acute at the northern end of Long Beach where the algae combines with the blue clay present in the sand. The clay not only absorbs and prolongs the odor, it complicates cleanup by making the sand too soft to accommodate the machinery used to remove the weed from the beach.

Although this process deprives the algae of a significant source of the nitrogen it thrives on, residual nitrogen produced by sewage outfalls and run-off provide sufficient nutrients to generate continuous large-scale blooms. As unpleasant as this cycle is, there is an upside. *Gammarus* shrimp and amphipods feed on the bushy weed. They wash in with the casts and produce a ready-made food source for shore migratory birds. The casts also provide the birds with a safe haven -few people or their dogs dare venture into the muck. Bushy weed in itself is a nutritious substance. Testing done in the early 1990s revealed that bushy weed is 14% more nutritious than boxed cereal and is a major source of fiber. At the height of the bushy weed scourge in the late 1980s, when casts commonly exceeded 600 tons, MIT scientists suggested gathering the algae with pontoon mounted harvesters used to remove weeds out of freshwater. Their thought was to use the algae to manufacture livestock feed. These efforts came to naught however, and the affected communities settled for the temporary fix of daily removal. Improving water quality seems to have reduced the size of the casts and halted the Bushy Weed's southern migration.

*Thanks to Andrew S. Doran at UC Berkeley for use of the *Pilayella* illustration. This article was based on notes from a talk given by Dr. Don Cheney of North Eastern University in March 1993 and the article, *MIT Project Combats Mutant Algae*, published in the September 1991 issue of *MIT's Tech Talk*.*



A microscopic view of Epiphytic Bushy Weed, *Pilayella littoralis*.

Image used with permission of the University Herbarium, UC Berkeley.

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

Interpretative Sign and Halfway House Projects Update

Several members continue to work with DCR on the Interpretative Sign Project. We have received some initial input from DCR on the signs drafted by Duncan and Douglas Maitland and T.J. Cullinane, but we await further DCR instructions on the final text and layout of the signs. Progress has been slowed by lack of DCR resources to adequately manage the project. Still, we hope to have the signs installed along Lynn Shores Reservation by the end of the summer.

As many of you have noticed, the new Halfway House is being constructed on the Nahant Beach Reservation. DCR is aiming to have the building constructed and operational by the summer.

We plan on having further updates on these projects at the Friends June meeting.

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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 remaining meetings will be held in 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