

REVERE JOURNAL

YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER SINCE 1881

Friday, March, 29, 2019

Metropolitan Beaches Commission Seeks Community Input on State of Beaches; East Boston Meeting April 9

Journal Staff

The Metropolitan Beaches Commission (MBC) will hold nine public hearings in the winter and spring of 2019 in waterfront communities from Nahant to Nantasket to receive public input about the state of the beaches. The hearing for East Boston will be held on Tuesday, April 9, from 6-8 p.m. at the Orient Heights Yacht Club.

“The region’s public beaches are important recreational, economic, and educational assets,” said State Sen. Brendan Crighton, Senate Co-Chair of the MBC. “Working together we have made our beaches cleaner, safer and more accessible, and I am looking forward to continuing our work together this year.”

“Constitution Beach is one of East Boston’s most valuable assets,” said Sen. Joseph Boncore, who serves on the Metropolitan Beaches Commission. “The MBC works tirelessly to protect our natural resources to ensure they are accessible for generations to come.”

The Metropolitan Beaches Commission was created in 2006 by the Massachusetts Legislature to make findings and recommendations on ways to strengthen the Boston metropolitan region’s 15 public beaches in Nahant, Lynn, Revere, Winthrop, East Boston, South Boston, Dorchester, Quincy, and Hull which are managed by the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). The Commission is comprised of elected officials and community, civic, nonprofit, and business leaders from Boston and the metropolitan region’s waterfront neighborhoods and beachfront communities.

In 2013, the Commission reconvened to examine the impacts of the reforms and recommendations made in its first report and issue additional findings and recommendations to better leverage these resources for residents in the future. The MBC was made permanent in 2015. Each year the Commission holds public hearings at the State House and in waterfront neighborhoods and beachfront communities from Nahant to Nantasket, and issues an annual report of its findings and recommendations to the Legislature and to DCR.

“As the Commissioner from Revere Beach, the nation’s first public beach, I know how important these resources are,” said State Rep. RoseLee Vincent, House Co-Chair of the MBC. “Beaches like Revere Beach are premier destinations for millions of visitors from across the Commonwealth and the country, and enhance the lives of the community members who live along their shores.”

“Boston Harbor, the waterfront, and Constitution Beach are important to residents across East Boston,” said Rep. Adrian Madaro of East Boston, who serves on the Metropolitan Beaches Commission. “I look forward to hearing from stakeholders and members of our community on how to make Constitution Beach even better.”

The Commission will release its third report on the state of the metropolitan beaches in late spring after the hearings are completed. During the last round of hearings more than a thousand people participated, helping the Commission understand what’s working and what could use improvement.

“One of the most important lessons we have learned is that the region’s residents really love their beaches, and have great ideas about how to make them better,” said Bruce Berman, Director of Strategy and Communications at Save the Harbor/Save the Bay, which has helped to lead and manage the Commission since its inception. “We look forward to hearing from the residents of Hull and all those who love Nantasket Beach.”

Each hearing will give community members and beachgoers the chance to share their thoughts on the state of their beach, and share their ideas and recommendations to make them even better. The Commission will hold a hearing in late May to review its draft findings with the public before releasing their final report in June. The Commission will hold hearings in Nahant, Lynn, Revere, Winthrop, East Boston, South Boston, Dorchester, and Hull between February and May 2019. The MBC held a hearing in Quincy in August of 2018, and the feedback received will also be included in the Commission’s report.

The 2019 Metropolitan Beaches Commission hearings will be held on the following dates:

- Saturday March 30th – Dorchester
- Tuesday April 9th – East Boston
- Tuesday April 30th – Revere
- Saturday May 4th – South Boston
- Tuesday May 14th – Winthrop
- Saturday May 18th – Regional Review
- Tuesday June 4th – Report Release at State House

If you love your beach, but can’t attend the MBC Hearing, you can share your thoughts by taking part in the MBC online survey at <https://tinyurl.com/BeachesSurvey>.