

# Residents Pleased With Wollaston Beach Water Quality

**By SCOTT JACKSON**  
The Massachusetts Beaches Commission recently held a public hearing on the condition of Wollaston Beach, and will use feedback from residents to develop recommendations on the future of the site.

The commission held its public hearing earlier this month at the Kennedy Center in North Quincy. Sen. John Keenan, a member of the commission from Quincy, said residents feel better about water quality and the condition of the beach than they have in the past.

“Compared to past years, people seemed to be pretty pleased with the condition of the beach, the maintenance of the beach and water quality, but there was a recognition that more has to be done to improve the water quality because in the ranking of the beaches, Wollaston, even though it has over 90 percent water quality rating, it could use improvement,” Keenan said.

Residents at the meeting did say they have concerns about traffic and parking along Quincy Shore Drive, as well as concerns about

pedestrian safety. “The other concern that was raised was the speed of the traffic on Quincy Shore Drive and parking – in conjunction with the speed, difficulty getting in and out of the parking spaces because of Quincy Shore Drive. And then some of the pedestrian safety issues,” Keenan said. “Pedestrians aren’t using the crosswalks as they should. They are crossing between cars and coming out into traffic and people are concerned about that as well.”

Input from the meeting – and others held on beaches throughout Metropolitan Boston – will be used to create a new report outlining improvements that could be made to the beaches under the commission’s purview.

“The beaches commission will gather all the information from their various meetings and, like they did a couple of years ago, come up with a report reflecting what they’ve heard across the metropolitan beaches communities and then some recommendations as to what should be next,” Keenan said.

The senator said there are

currently no specific plans by the state to improve Wollaston Beach, but money from recently approved bond bills could be used to improve seawalls there and fix sidewalks damaged by this year’s strong winter storms.

## Quincy Police Increasing Impaired-Driving Patrols

**By SCOTT JACKSON**

The Quincy Police Department will step up patrols meant to catch impaired driving using grant funds received from the Highway Safety Division of the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security.

Quincy police will be joining local police throughout the state, as well as the Massachusetts State Police, in the national “Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over” enforcement mobilization and public information campaign.

“We passed some bonds that will allow for rebuilding of seawalls, construction of new seawalls. Whether that will specifically impact Wollaston Beach, we will see,” Keenan said. “To the extent that some of those seawalls need to be ad-

ressed, we will look to address them. There are still some areas of sidewalks that need to be repaired as a result of storms over the last winter.”

The state is also looking to dredge Quincy Bay, which has not been done for our roads free of impaired drivers and avoid the tragedy they wreak.”

“Getting behind the wheel after drinking alcohol, using marijuana or both is one of the most dangerous things drivers can do,” said Jeff Larason, director of the Highway Safety Division. “A little planning can save your life or someone else’s. Regret or remorse won’t bring someone back.”

Marijuana or marijuana-type drugs were the most prevalent types of drugs found in people killed in

quite a while, Keenan said. “We’re looking at dredging of Quincy Bay near the yacht clubs and elsewhere,” he stated. “There was money in a bond to do some dredging, and the hope is some of that money will find its way to Quincy Bay.”

crashes from 2011 to 2016 in Massachusetts, Quincy police said. Alcohol impaired driving fatalities increased 9 percent – from 109 to 119 – in the state between 2015 and 2016. Between 2011 and 2015, 82 percent of impaired drivers in fatal crashes were men and 45 percent of all alcohol-related driver fatalities were ages 21 to 34.

Nationally, about one-third of all traffic crash fatalities involve drunk drivers. More than 10,000 people die each year in drunk-driving related crashes.

## Sen. Keenan Opposes Return of Death Penalty

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interview.

“I don’t support it in general and it’s very difficult because when you look at what happened with Officer Chesna, that was one of the most horrific things that I recall ever happening to a police officer – just the way it happened. I understand the death penalty is something that people are giving a lot of thought to there and I can fully understand why – and that’s my reaction in some way too because of what that guy did.

“But the history of the death penalty is it takes such a long, long, long time for somebody to work through the system of appeals to get to the point where they actually end up being killed. I never suggest that I would put myself in a position of any family who has lost somebody – a police officer in the line of duty. I can’t imagine what it’s like. But my feeling is the person should just stay in jail for the rest of their lives and live a pretty miserable existence there.”

“I oppose the death penalty in general and as it relates to police officers it is a very difficult decision, but that’s where I am,” Keenan said. “A guy like that should just rot in jail.”

Massachusetts last executed someone in 1947, and in 1984 the state’s Supreme Judicial Court ruled the death penalty statute was

unconstitutional. Efforts have been made to re-instate the death penalty in recent years, but those have failed.

Keenan said the latest push for capital punishment could have a stronger chance of being approved by legislators, but he does not know if it would pass or not.

“Given the recent events, it might have a better chance, but I really don’t know,” he said. “I have no sense from my colleagues as to whether it would pass.”

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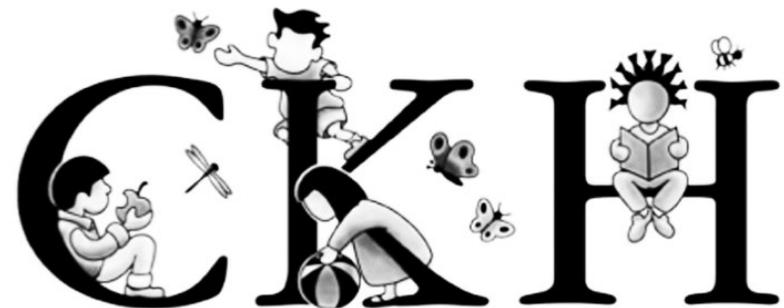
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