



Public hearing Tuesday on North Shore beaches

Originally Published on Saturday, June 08, 2013

By Chris Stevens / The Daily Item **REVERE**

Sen. Thomas McGee is hoping that residents, friends groups and anyone with a vested interest in seeing the North Shore's beaches thrive will turn out for the Metropolitan Beach Commission hearing, Tuesday at the Jack Satter House.

"A real important part of the 2007 report was the actual input of the actual citizens and how strongly they all felt about things like cleanliness, being able to actually get to the beach and having access to the people running the beach," he said. "It's a key piece, hearing what's good and what's bad and how we can work collaboratively."

McGee sat on the first Beach Commission, established in 2006 by the state legislature. He is co-chairman this time with Rep. Kathi-Anne Reinstein. The commission is managed by Save the Harbor/Save the Bay.

Save the Harbor Save The Bay Director Bruce Berman said he is very excited about the opportunity to see how recommendations the original commission made in 2006 have turned out.

He called the rehabilitation of the Ward Bathhouse in Lynn as a good example of a goal set and met. But He also said a five year recession made any progress by the Department of Conservation and Recreation difficult.

The commission covers beaches from Nahant to Nantasket and Berman said one of the best aspects has been watching and learning that people in every seaside community feels the same about their respective beaches.

He said one of the biggest frustrations regarding the beaches is no one has found away to invest in free programming. Except Lynn with its Red Rock concert series and Revere with it's annual sand sculpture contest. He called both events transformative.

Berman joked that the concerts don't solve the water quality at Kings Beach but he added the Save the Harbor Save the Bay isn't only about water quality, sometimes its about the little things.

He said when attention was first turned on cleaning up Revere Beach in 2001 one gentleman pointed to a raggedy flag flying and said if the organization couldn't fix the flag it would never be able to fix the beach.

"The next day or so they managed to get a new flag," he said. "The guy came back to the next meeting and cried."

Reinstein will lead commissioners on a tour of Revere Beach prior to Tuesday's hearing.

"Kathi-Anne Reinstein is a pistol," said Berman.

He also added that he is glad McGee, who grew up on the Lynn beaches and “has salt in his veins” is also on board.

McGee said the commission has already held two public hearings on Beacon Hill to assess the needs of DCR in terms of equipment and manpower. The Revere hearing is the first of eight that will be held in the area. McGee said he expects a meeting will be held in Lynn sometime in July.

“We’re hoping for a good turnout,” he said referring to Tuesday’s meeting. “We made really good progress in 2007.”

The tour will begin at 5 p.m. at the Revere Beach Bandstand. The hearing will be held at 420 Revere Beach Boulevard, The Jack Satter House.

To download a copy of the commissions 2007 report go to tinyurl.com/betterbeaches2007 or for more information on the commission visit www.savetheharbor.org.

Chris Stevens can be reached at cstevens@itemlive.com.