

MBC

SAVE THE HARBOR/SAVE THE BAY VALUES AND APPRECIATES THE OPPORTUNITY TO
ONCE AGAIN ASSIST THE METROPOLITAN BEACHES COMMISSION – WE ALSO THANK
THE COMMISSIONERS FOR THEIR COMMITMENT TO THEIR COMMUNITIES, BOSTON
HARBOR AND OUR REGION’S PUBLIC BEACHES.

IN 2007, THE COMMISSION MADE A NUMBER OF RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION; AMONG THEM WAS A CALL FOR INCREASED STAFF
AND NEW EQUIPMENT PURCHASES. ADDITIONALLY, THE COMMISSION CALLED FOR THE
DEPARTMENT TO INVEST \$1 IN FREE BEACHES EVENTS AND PROGRAMS FOR EVERY \$20
SPENT ON OUR REGION’S PUBLIC BEACHES FROM NAHANT TO NANTASKET. THE
COMMISSION’S CALCULATIONS PUT THAT INVESTMENT AT APPROXIMATELY \$150,000
ANNUALLY.

SAVE THE HARBOR ACKNOWLEDGES AND APPRECIATES THAT THE DEPARTMENT HAS
MADE ITS BEST EFFORT TO ADOPT MANY OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS. WE CERTAINLY
APPRECIATE THE DEPARTMENT’S IN KIND AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT SAVE THE

HARBOR'S BETTER BEACHES PROGRAM EVENTS WHICH IS ESTIMATED TO BE \$30,000 ANNUALLY. UNFORTUNATELY, THE DEPARTMENT OF CONVERSATION AND RECREATION HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO FULLY IMPLEMENT THE REQUEST FOR INVESTMENT IN FREE EVENTS AND PROGRAMS.

RECOGNIZING THE MYRIAD BUDGET CHALLENGES FACING THE PATRICK ADMINISTRATION, SAVE THE HARBOR CREATED THE BETTER BEACHES SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM IN 2007. THE INITIATIVE WAS LAUNCHED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE BOSTON FOUNDATION, HARPOON BREWERY, NATIONAL GRID, COMCAST, JET BLUE AMONG OTHER CORPORATE PARTNERS.....AND DCR.

IN 5 YEARS, THE BETTER BEACHES SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM HAS MADE \$143,500 IN GRANTS RANGING FROM \$500 TO \$5,000 TO LOCAL BEACHES FRIENDS GROUPS AND NON PROFIT COMMUNITY AND YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS. THIS \$143,500 HAS LEVERAGED \$503,500 IN CASH AND IN KIND CONTRIBUTIONS FROM MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS, SMALL BUSINESSES AND DCR FOR A TOTAL INVESTMENT OF \$647,000.

THE INVESTMENT HAS PRODUCED 150 FREE EVENTS AND PROGRAMS ON OUR BEACHES FROM NAHANT TO NANTASKET.

SAVE THE HARBOR'S SUCCESS IN GROWING THE BETTER BEACHES PROGRAM HAS BEEN REALIZED AS A RESULT OF THE COMMITMENT OF ITS COMMUNITY PARTNERS AND OUR COLLECTIVE ONGOING RECRUITMENT OF CORPORATE SPONSORS AS WELL AS THE FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF RESIDENTS IN OUR WATERFRONT NEIGHBORHOODS AND BEACHFRONT COMMUNITIES.

ON MARCH 24, SAVE THE HARBOR AND ITS COMMUNITY PARTNERS HOSTED ITS 3RD ANNUAL HARPOON HELPS CUPID SPLASH, A COLD WATER SPLASH SUPPORTED BY SMALL DOLLAR PLEDGE FUNDRAISING. THIS YEAR WORKING TOGETHER WE RAISED \$32,000; 200 LOCAL RESIDENTS DID INDEED SPLASH INTO THE WATER AT THEIR LOCAL BEACHES.

HOWEVER, FROM EXPERIENCE I KNOW THAT NEITHER SAVE THE HARBOR NOR OUR LOCAL BEACH PARTNERS CAN GROW THESE PROGRAMS IN A SUSTAINABLE FASHION

WITHOUT ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL SUPPORT AS THE COMMITSSION CALLED FOR IN
2007.

SAVE THE HARBOR IS WELL AWARE THAT FUNDS ARE HARD TO COME BY BUT WE ALSO
KNOW THERE ARE INNOVATIVE WAYS TO GENERATE THE ADDITIONAL FUNDS THAT WE
BELIEVE ARE ESSENTIAL TO TAKE THESE BEACHES FROM GOOD TOWARDS GREAT.