

MEMORANDUM

TO: Bruce Berman
FROM: Jess Lerner
DATE: December 8, 2006
RE: Community Specific Issues

Below is a list of community specific issues as they were brought up in the public hearings, testimonies, and breakout groups. The most relevant issues in need of immediate attention are noted at the beginning of each section. These are all issues that people felt passionately about and brought up consistently and repeatedly. These comments include major capital issues.

Lynn and Nahant

The causeway from Lynn to Nahant is in need of repair and is a major capital concern. The Halfway Bathhouse needs to be replaced after being torn down by DCR. The Ward Bathhouse needs repairs and improved maintenance. Many comments were concerned with the algae buildup, which is unique to the area. The algae build up on the beach and rot quickly in the sun, producing an unpleasant odor. Also, ferry service to the islands has been requested and needs to be considered.

Several comments did mention a problem with trash pickup, and smaller, necessary repairs, from lamp posts to broken barriers on the causeway. A number of notes also mentioned a need for repairs at the bathhouse, and regular maintenance of bathroom facilities.

In context with all of the other beaches, beachgoers in Lynn and Nahant also left many comments asking for more educational and community programming, and were hoping for a vision or plan for the area. Also, although there were no problems with police presence, several comments referenced a large traffic problem, especially during rush hour. Some comments did mention a problem with dogs on the beach. One person suggested building a ramp over the rocks, where he has seen elderly people struggling to cross.

Quincy

In Quincy, most of the comments focused on negative aspects of beach maintenance, and concerns about the ongoing capital improvement project on the beach and Quincy Shore Drive. The comments did show that Quincy seems to have strong community involvement and good programming.

Traffic and pedestrian safety along Quincy Shore Drive, trash pickup, water quality, and a desire to place the management of Wollaston Beach under the control of the City of Quincy were the main concerns.

Revere

The gazebo in Revere is in terrible condition, with dog, human and seagull waste contaminating it and making it impossible to use, and it is needed for children's programs in the summer. The gazebo is a particular target of seagulls, which are a problem all over the beach, and needs to be cleaned and maintained regularly.

Revere comments also included a list of repairs to buildings around the beach, not enough trash barrels, and insufficient police presence. Problems with speed of traffic in the area were also mentioned. There were few requests for capital improvement projects, although a few comments mentioned that a pier or a playground should be added to the area. Several comments also mentioned poor water quality, one mentioning Lynn as a source.

The unique feature at Revere, similar to algae in Lynn and Nahant, was the sand. A significant number of comments said that the sand needed to be cleaned, dredged, or outright removed.

Winthrop

Winthrop beach now has almost no sand, due to storms and erosion. Beach replenishment and renourishment is the most important issue here. The sidewalk is also in terrible disrepair, and is a capital issue that needs attention. The animal control officer has reported severe issues on the beach requiring him to work overtime, including seagulls and dogs, and has requested his position be made a full time position. The need for a bathhouse, sidewalk repairs, more weeding, and increased police presence were mentioned. Other comments requested a return of swimming lessons and better accessibility for the elderly and disabled.

East Boston

There were comments about poor trash removal, general maintenance, many comments about rules concerning dogs on the beach both for and against, and concerns about a lack of security and police presence and subsequent vandalism from neighborhood kids. Several comments also addressed the local issue of Logan Airport, which produces a lot of disruptive noise and fumes, as well as more space to store equipment.

South Boston

Many comments were concerned with the trash problem on the South Boston Beaches, including insufficient barrels and badly scheduled pickups. Facilities maintenance was another significant concern, especially with the recent bathhouse upgrade. Additionally, several comments requested that the boardwalk be extended and additional access points be added, including stroller-friendly ramps.

A few other comments also mentioned insufficient parking and difficult pedestrian access, while others said that there were too few lifeguards on duty. One unique but important comment described the bad reputation of water quality in South Boston, which prevents people from wanting to come back to the beaches. Insufficient storage for equipment was mentioned as well.

Dorchester

Jimson weed, a toxic hallucinogenic plant, is a major concern on this beach and needs removal. Doggie mitts are also in short supply and were requested at the hearing. The expressway drainage into savin hill malibu beach areas and contaminated storm water runoff are major issues that need to be remediated.

Some comments called for additional trash bins, but trash was less commonly mentioned than at other locations. Just like most other beaches, a general lack of basic maintenance was described, including invasive vegetation and staff who don't understand their work. Poor police enforcement was also mentioned.

Although poor maintenance was brought up in other areas, many comments in Dorchester focused on the staff, saying that the maintenance staff were spread too thin, poorly supervised and uninformed. The geographically unique problem of siltation at Malibu and Savin Hill Beaches was also mentioned in relation to water quality and a need for dredging. Some comments requested areas to have picnics and grills.

Hull

The seawall is a major capital issue that needs attention immediately. Small business expansion opportunities were something addressed that should be considered. Here there was also a desire for a ferry service as a gateway to islands.

In Hull, a larger number portion of the comments focused on positive aspects of the beach, suggesting that Hull has some of the improvements that need to be made already. Many of those comments were phrased as "preserve this," suggesting that although beneficial aspects of the beach may be available now, they aren't receiving the upkeep they need.

Other comments showed concern about the ongoing plans for rebuilding the seawall, which is a major local issue unique to Hull.

A number of comments described public bathhouses or bathrooms as inaccessible at key hours.

Agency Hearing, October 3rd 2006

Major issues included old and antiquated equipment, lack of storage for equipment, short staffing, staff shifting roles inappropriately due to staff shortage, and need for staff beyond seasonal/summer staff.