



**2015 Annual President's Report**  
January 26th, 2016

This report summarizes the activities of Friends of Barnstable Harbor in 2015.

- **Directors & By-Laws:**

There were no changes to our Directors & By Laws in 2015.

- **General Activity:**

## **yep** – Youth Education Project:

As a stewardship organization for Barnstable Harbor, we feel that education is an integral component of ensuring that future generations gain knowledge and interest in maintaining a healthy coastal ecosystem and environment as well as develop a historical perspective with regard to our maritime heritage.

Many children growing up on Cape Cod miss the opportunity to experience the coastal world that is the fundamental difference between seaside and inland communities. With this in mind, we have invited the Town of Barnstable 4<sup>th</sup> grade classes for an “outdoor classroom experience” with Barnstable Harbor Ecotours.

The Barnstable Harbor Ecotours' boat, the Horseshoe Crab, is a 30' U.S.C.G. certified pontoon boat that comfortably carries up to 26 passengers. Its crew consists of a captain and a mate/naturalist. The Horseshoe Crab is docked in Barnstable Harbor and a typical tour lasts 2 hours.

These trips would subscribe to the Massachusetts Science and Technology/ Engineering Framework standards for 4th Graders. Eco-Tours naturalist Andrea Higgins would provide STEM curriculum plans including pre and post trip materials introducing scientific concepts and other teaching tools to teachers in preparation for the trip.

## **Environmental Committee:**

Cape Cod Commission's Watershed Management Director Tom Cambareri made a presentation to the Environmental Committee on watershed issues that directly impact Barnstable Harbor. Tom noted that Town of Barnstable's "south-side" embayments are more distressed than Barnstable Harbor (our extreme tides keep the water flowing), however, he strongly encouraged us to pursue the MEP water quality study as conditions likely vary across the harbor. For more information on this meeting and this committee, please visit our website:

<http://www.friendsofbarnstableharbor.org/home/environmental-committee/>

## **Harbor Management Plan:**

A Harbor Management Plan (HMP) meeting was held in March. It was agreed that FBH would benefit more from the creation of a "blue print" for Barnstable Harbor than from a state-sanctioned HMP. It was thought that a state sanctioned HPM was complicated, expensive, involved T of B participation, and might jeopardize current historical infrastructure. Nevertheless, such a "blueprint" of Barnstable Harbor would be an important tool for addressing concerns such as use/abuse of recreational and commercial resources, establishing a regularized dredge schedule, planning for sea level rise and accompanying watershed issues, and other impacts on Barnstable Harbor.

## **Millway Bridge:**

We consulted with a local engineer for a second opinion on the condition of the Millway Bridge. This consultation confirmed the MA DOT assessment of the condition of the bridge as being "good".

## **Boat Basin Changes/Commercial Shell fishermen:**

We have been working with the Town of Barnstable Harbormaster's office and the Shellfish Committee to implement changes at the Boat Basin to make the "marina" more attractive for commercial shellfish operations.

### Recommendations to the Town:

- Offer reserved parking for commercial shell fishermen's trucks & trailers on the grassy area west of the boat basin
- Ensure Blish Point Year-Round Access/ Clear ramp of sand & snow

## **Charter Boat Slips in Perpetuity:**

We are supporting Ann Canedy's proposal to the Town of Barnstable to designate the current charter boat slips be held in perpetuity as charter boat slips. This "charter fleet" represents our maritime economy and is also an important element in the fabric of Barnstable Harbor & Village tourism.

- **Website, Social Media & Outreach:**

Our website continues to be a resource for Barnstable Harbor. Please send pictures, information and any other material that you feel should be included on our site to **info@friendsofbarnstableharbor.org**.

Keep a look out for upcoming events, information and more on our website.

"Like Us" on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/barnstableharbor/>.

- **Events:**

### **Sturgis Library Free Lecture Series:**

Our free lectures were well attended. 2015 events were:

*-Hyannis Whale Watch Naturalist Jonathan Brink's "The Appeal of the Sand Eel"*

*-Barnstable Harbor Ecotours Naturalist –Phil Kyle's "The Glacier & Barnstable Village".*

Upcoming events planned include a presentation by ***Hyannis Whale Watch Naturalist: Jonathan Brink*** on "**The American Eel**" (those long squiggly eels that stripers love).

### **Creek Clean-Up:**

This spring volunteers removed trash & debris from behind the Barnstable Village shops. Planned is an early spring (March) **Creek Clean-up**. Please plan to join us as "the more the merrier" and "many hands make light work", plus it feels really good to volunteer!

### **Barnstable Village Holiday Stroll:**

Once again we braved the weather and hoisted the Friends of Barnstable Harbor banner for all to see as we handed out candy canes to this year's revelers.

- **Volunteers:**

Volunteers interested in participating in FBH activities should contact:  
**info@friendsofbarnstableharbor.org.**

**\*\*We are seeking a Membership/ Donations Coordinator. If you are interested, please contact us at info@friendsofbarnstableharbor.org\*\***

- **Membership:**

Membership remains strong with over 280 on the email list. We encourage all members to renew their Membership for 2016. Visit the website and utilize the on-line PayPal account to renew, or simply mail a check.

We are currently updating our membership “premiums”. Keep an eye out for baseball caps and other Friends of Barnstable Harbor items.

- **Moving Forward:**

**Education:**

- Pursue Town of Barnstable Schools and others for 4<sup>th</sup> grade field trips on BH Ecotours.
- Research “Blue Pages” as an Education tool/resources

**Environmental:**

- Coastal Resiliency: Planning for the future, impacts of Sea Level Rise on watershed, marshes, erosion, recreational and commercial shell fishing
- Town of Barnstable Water Resource Advisory Committee: Attend meetings to follow this important issue

**Membership Premiums:** New Ideas

**Thank you to all that are Friends of Barnstable Harbor!**

**May we continue in the upcoming year with continued success in protecting the harbor we love!**

Submitted by: Avery Revere, President

[www.friendsofbarnstableharbor.org](http://www.friendsofbarnstableharbor.org)

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