



ESSEX NATIONAL  
HERITAGE AREA

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**Pictures and Interviews available**

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## **Essex Heritage Announces 2010 Pioneers in Partnership Awards**

*ENHC Recognizes New Commissioners, Trustees and Partners at October 26 Meeting*

**October 26, 2009 (Salem, MA) ...** Over 100 regional dignitaries and constituents filled the newly renovated Lynch Park Carriage House (Beverly) as the Essex National Heritage Commission conducted its annual Fall business meeting, announced the recipients of its Pioneers in Partnership Awards, appointed a new slate of officers, and elected nine new commissioners on October 26, 2010.

Attendees were welcomed by the Honorable William Scanlon, Mayor of Beverly and received a brief update on federal activities from Congressman John F. Tierney. Other dignitaries in attendance included MA State Representative Mary Grant, Salisbury Selectman Jerry Klima, Salisbury Town Manager Neil Harrington and Danvers Town Manager Wayne Marquis.

The Essex Heritage Pioneers in Partnership Awards are presented annually by Essex Heritage President Emeritus, Thomas M. Leonard to individuals and/or organizations that have shown leadership in promoting regional cooperation among the Area's resources and organizations. "Nominees exemplify the spirit of partnership, helping the Area work together to preserve, promote, and enhance the historic, cultural and natural resources of the region," said Mr. Leonard .

This years recipients included Karen Kline, founder of the American Community Think Tank, and cultural activist in the Towns of Andover and North Andover, who was acknowledged as the driving force behind a program to recognize and honor the work of Anne Bradstreet, the

seventeenth century poet, and for successfully advocating for the adoption of a Poet Laureate for the Town of North Andover, among other endeavors.

Ingrid Barry, founder and President of the nonprofit Danvers Bi-Peds, was recognized for her advocacy of safer bicycle and pedestrian accommodations in Danvers and beyond. Ingrid was cited as the leading vocal proponent for development of the 4.3-mile Danvers Rail Trail that is currently under construction. The trail is part of the 28-mile, eight-town Border to Boston Trail alignment. She was responsible for introducing town officials to the Iron Horse Preservation Society, a Nevada based organization that is clearing the entire corridor of its iron rails and wooden ties at no cost to the town.

The third Pioneers in Partnership Award was presented to the Coastal Trails Coalition, Inc., founded in 2004, for its successful efforts to create a 30-mile, regional system of on- and off-road bicycle and walking trails linking the communities of Amesbury, Newbury, Newburyport and Salisbury. Marshalling the imagination and energies of municipal officials and hundreds of volunteers, over four miles of rail-trail and seven miles of bike lanes have been completed to date. The group was also recognized for its role in persuading MassDOT to incorporate a bicycle path into its plans for the massive Whittier Bridge/I-95 replacement project – a first for Massachusetts.

Finally, State Representative Mary Grant was given an Essex Heritage Special Recognition Award for her years of service and advocacy for improved access to health care, housing for the homeless, workforce development, and enhanced transportation. “Ms. Grant has been a vocal supporter of Essex Heritage, both on Beacon Hill and in the region at-large. She was a key legislative leader for the emerging Essex Heritage Scenic Byway that will positively impact the area for years to come,” offered Mr. Leonard.

Essex Heritage President, Kevin Tierney of Saugusbank, announced new members elected to the Essex Heritage Board of Trustees. Serving a three-year term are Anita Blackaby, Executive Director of the House of Salem Gables, Salem; Jason Korb, principle of the smart-growth firm Cirrus Development, LLC, Inc., and William Piercey, of Chase & Lunt

Insurance Co., who also serves as the current Board President of the North of Boston Convention & Visitors Bureau.

Two members of the Essex Heritage Board of Trustees, who served the organization for a full nine years during three consecutive three year terms, retired and joined the ranks of Trustee Emeriti. They were: Julie McConchie, Executive Director of the North of Boston Convention & Visitors Bureau and Mr. William Pickles, of Andover, former manager of the Maria Miles Visitor Center in Salisbury.

Nine new commissioners elected at the meeting for a three-year term were: Tatiana Burgos-Espinal, North Shore Community College; Ralph Castagna, Castagna Construction; Joe Geller, Geller Micro Analytical Lab, Inc.; Stephen Immerman, Montserrat College of Art; John Keohane, Henry's Market; Tom McNulty, retired Clerk, Town of Marblehead; Karen Nascembeni, North Shore Music Theatre; Nathaniel Pulsifer, Coburn Charitable Society; and Michael Schulze, Peabody Community Preservation Committee.

A “State of the Heritage Area” report by Executive Director Annie Harris highlighted the organization’s regional initiatives and plans for long-term sustainability. Included in her review, Ms. Harris delivered preliminary results of a National Park Service evaluation of Heritage Area effectiveness; and recaps of in-progress regional initiatives such as the advocacy efforts and youth engagement programs with the National Park Service. Ms. Harris’ report also documented many of the organization’s other milestones for the year, including the *Friendship of Salem’s* Inaugural Passenger Sail event, results of the 2010 Trails & Sails Program, an update on the Essex Heritage Scenic Byway Public Meeting schedule and information about an expanded Heritage Excursion program and mission-based membership program.

For additional information, please visit: [EssexHeritage.org](http://EssexHeritage.org)

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### **About the Essex National Heritage Area and Essex Heritage**

Designated by the US Congress in recognition of the important role that this region played in American history and its significant heritage sites still remaining, the Essex National Heritage Area is comprised of the 34 communities of Essex County, MA. Essex Heritage is a non profit agency that manages the Heritage Area, and works in collaboration with the National Park Service to promote public/private partnerships, and develop programs that enhance, preserve and encourage regional awareness of the Area's unique historic, cultural and natural resources. For more information, visit Essex Heritage at [www.essexheritage.org](http://www.essexheritage.org) or call (978) 740-0444.



### **About Salem Maritime National Historic Site**

Salem Maritime National Historic Site was designated in 1937, the first National Historic Site in the National Park Service system. The nine acre site includes the homes of merchants and mariners, the Salem Custom House in which the famous author Nathaniel Hawthorne worked, and a replica of the three-masted cargo vessel *Friendship*. Today, the rangers and volunteers of Salem Maritime NHS continue to inform and inspire visitors with the maritime history of New England and the United States. For more information, visit us on the web at [www.nps.gov/sama](http://www.nps.gov/sama) or call 978-740-1650.