



ESSEX NATIONAL  
HERITAGE AREA

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CONGRESSMAN TIERNEY ANNOUNCES LEGISLATION DIRECTING  
THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE TO STUDY A SALEM MARITIME  
NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE BOUNDARY EXPANSION AT ESSEX  
HERITAGE SPRING MEETING**

**Essex Heritage also welcomes new Commissioners and the return of Tom Leonard;  
recognizes Coastal Byway progress, Senator Bruce Tarr & community advisory group**

**(Salem, MA, April 12, 2011)** –The Essex National Heritage Commission (Essex Heritage) held its Annual Spring meeting today at the Shalin Lui Performance Center in Rockport. U.S. Congressman John Tierney attended the meeting and announced legislation that directs the National Park Service to conduct a study for a Salem Maritime National Historic Site boundary study proposal. The boundary study proposal would allow the National Park Service at Salem Maritime National Historic Site to provide programs, heritage preservation and resources to a larger region.

In his remarks to more than 100 meeting attendees, Congressman Tierney congratulated Essex Heritage Executive Director Annie Harris and President Emeritus Tom Leonard for their successes in improving economic development, creating jobs, and preserving resources within the Heritage Area since 1996. In an effort to continue that momentum, the Congressman said his proposed legislation will direct the National Park Service to conduct a study in Salem and along Essex County's southern coast to determine the suitability and feasibility of including portions

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within the boundary of the National Park Service's Salem Maritime National Historic Site. The study will look at the nationally significant historic resources on the lands in and abutting greater Salem Sound that are currently in public ownership or places where the public is welcome, and evaluate the ways in which the National Park Service may be able to support and expand the interpretation, education and heritage preservation programs that are currently only offered at Salem Maritime National Historic Site.

“The 6<sup>th</sup> Congressional District is home to many unique historic, cultural and natural resources, which are studied, visited and treasured. These resources are also critical to economic development and job creation. As one who has long supported the Essex National Heritage Area, I was pleased to announce this important legislation at today's meeting. Annie Harris and her team at the Essex National Heritage Commission deserve credit for championing the extension of the Salem Maritime National Historic Site's boundary. This legislation is the necessary first step in advancing this concept,” said Congressman John F. Tierney.

“Congressman Tierney has been a tremendous advocate for Essex County, which has the distinction of being one of the earliest heritage areas in the country,” said Essex Heritage Executive Director Annie Harris. “Today's announcement is an example of his support to expand efforts to preserve and promote the historic, cultural and natural resources in Essex County as well as broader areas of the North Shore.”

Also during the Annual Meeting, a warm welcome was given to Essex Heritage President Emeritus Tom Leonard, who made his first public appearance following a long recuperation. In addition, three regional leaders were welcomed as new Essex Heritage Commissioners: John Farmer, Senior Vice President & Director, Managed Assets, Eastern Bank; Susan Moulton, President, Moulton Consulting; and Peter Webber, Rockport Division Manager, Cape Ann Chamber of Commerce. They join a group of 150 civic and business leaders representing 34 communities within the Heritage Area who serve as ambassadors and help advance the Essex Heritage mission.

Director of Heritage Development Bill Steelman reported on the progress of the Essex Coastal

Scenic Byway and the completion of the Corridor Management Plan (CMP) and Report Summary. The Coastal Byway is an 85-mile, state-designated route linking 13 coastal communities between Lynn and Newburyport. It encompasses the maritime communities of the Heritage Area and leverages the route's unique and nationally significant heritage to generate economic and quality of life benefits for the region. State Senator Bruce Tarr and 19 community members of the Coastal Byway Corridor Advisory Group (CAG), a volunteer initiative steering committee, were recognized.

**About the Essex National Heritage Area**

The Essex National Heritage Commission (Essex Heritage) is the non-profit management entity for Essex National Heritage Area, one of forty-nine heritage partnership parks of the National Park Service. Working in collaboration with the National Park Service, Essex Heritage promotes public/private partnerships and develops and implements programs that enhance, preserve and encourage regional awareness of the unique historic, cultural and natural resources found within the Heritage Area. For more information, visit the website at [www.essexheritage.org](http://www.essexheritage.org) or call (978) 740-0444.

**About the Shalin Liu Performance Center,**

Home of Rockport Music, the Shalin Liu Performance Center is a world-class venue designed by lead architects Alan Joslin and Deborah Epstein of Epstein Joslin Architects and acoustician R. Lawrence Kirkegaard. Situated between the Atlantic Ocean and Rockport's Main Street, the new 330-seat performance center features a state-of-the-art concert hall with a two-story stage window with direct ocean views; a third-floor reception room offers concertgoers an unmatched panorama of the coastline. Named in honor of its generous lead donor to the \$20 building campaign, the center is unique in New England, combining intimacy, extraordinary acoustical quality, and a matchless natural setting, which attract and inspire artists and audiences alike. For more information, visit [www.rockportmusic.com](http://www.rockportmusic.com) or call (978) 546-7191.

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