



September Newsletter

Preserving Our Past by Protecting Our Future

Message from the Executive Director



Dear Sustainable Marblehead Community,
In reviewing Sustainable Marblehead's accomplishments and challenges during my first week on the job, two things stand out:

1. The state, national and global context of our activity has changed over the past year: Landmark climate legislation passed in Massachusetts; the US elected a new president who makes tackling climate change a priority; and the recent report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change stresses that the world is *living through* climate change, not watching it draw near.

2. On the local level, Sustainable Marblehead has been extremely active, keeping Marbleheaders informed of this evolving environment and energetically educating and engaging residents through its numerous programs, including webinars, Marblehead Ocean Week, Plastic-Free July, and many other activities organized by our six Working Groups.

I've arrived at an exciting, though immensely challenging, moment to take the reins from my able predecessors. We can be proud of what we've built in the past five years since our founding, while at the same time realizing that we must increase our efforts if we want to reach our goal of net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2040, as stated in Marblehead's Climate Vision Report.

I grew up in Marblehead, then spent several decades elsewhere, returning in 2015 to buy a house in Old Town. People ask me how it is to return to my hometown after so many years away, and I reply that the town is both exactly the same and vastly changed. From my office window I can see Abbot Hall, which still rings out the hours with a clock tended by a group fondly called the Old Cranks. They climb the tower every Thursday to turn a crank that winds the clock. Abbot Hall has one of the only remaining manually-wound clocks in New England. That's history, unchanged from my high school days.

Yet here in my close-knit neighborhood, EVERYONE has an air conditioner, whereas I can remember only one family near my childhood home in Old Town having one. The warming climate has led to an increasing number of summer days over 90° and upon my return to Marblehead, I really noticed the difference in seasonal temperatures.

This is just one wake-up call that makes me determined to work with our talented volunteers and municipal officials to reduce our collective carbon footprint, mitigate the effects of climate change and preserve our planet for the generations to come. Thank you for being part of the Sustainable Marblehead community and for your support of our work.
Louise Bullis Yarmoff
Executive Director

Sustainable Marblehead and Marblehead Museum to Host Evening with Patrick O'Donnell

September 30, Presentation at 7:30 pm, Abbot Hall



Patrick K. O'Donnell, the best-selling author of *The Indispensables*, is coming to Marblehead on Thursday, September 30, to discuss his new book, which tells the story of the diverse group of soldier-mariners from Marblehead who played such an integral role in the success of the American Revolution.

The evening begins with Marblehead's Glover Regiment marching to Abbot Hall at 7 pm, followed by Patrick's presentation at Abbot Hall at 7:30. **We would like to express our deep gratitude to the Hassett Family for their generosity in underwriting this event.**

As our [website](#) states, "Preserving Our Past by Protecting Our Future" is the theme we have adopted to reflect how much is at stake if we lose the climate battle, and so we are pleased to join the Marblehead Museum in offering this thought-provoking program about battles Marbleheaders have fought in the past. We hope you can join us!

General Admission is \$10; Student Admission is \$5. Space is limited! Register [here](#) or at the Marblehead Museum.



Marblehead's New Water Filling Stations

Last summer, our Conservation Working Group led by Steven Miller and Jenny Morton approached Marblehead's Recreation and Parks Commission about a potential collaboration to add water filling stations in some of our parks. Our hope was that these hydration stations would encourage the use of reusable water bottles to replace single-use plastics. As the result of our outreach, Commission Chair Chip Osborne identified the Shattuck Fund as a funder for the stations. This summer, the Recreation and Parks Department added hydration stations at Chandler Hovey Park, Devereux Beach, Seaside Park and Gatchell Playground. We would like to give a big thank you to everyone who made it happen!



Marblehead's New Bike Racks

Marblehead cyclists and many others have taken notice of the town's 15 new bike racks! Sustainable Marblehead facilitated the installation of these racks, which were generously donated to the town by Marblehead residents Judy and Bruce Eissner. The Eissners' fish and anchor bike racks are located at Chandler Hovey and Crocker Parks. Marblehead Rotary donated the five racks that are installed at Upper and Lower Stramski Park and the racks at Shubie's and the Clifton Improvement Association. They also donated the rack that will be installed at Abbot Hall when its landscaping project is complete. Sustainable Marblehead donated the four new racks at the post office. In addition to the Eissners and Marblehead Rotary, we would like to thank our Recreation and Parks Department, Highway Department, and Don Dowling and Tom Regan for installing the racks at no charge. It is now easier than ever to bicycle to work, errands, school and for recreation, helping to reduce the more than 25% of carbon emissions which come from the cars we drive!



Town of Marblehead Receives Climate Resiliency Grant

Marblehead has just received a \$131,705 grant from Massachusetts' Office of Coastal Zone Management to help mitigate the effects of climate change near the Municipal Light Department's headquarters on Commercial Street and neighboring Hammond Park. Click [here](#) to learn more.



Protecting Right Whales

Many Marblehead boat owners have seen right whales in our local waters. In 2018, several swam so close to Devereux Beach that they could be seen and photographed from shore. Right whales are one of the most endangered large whale species, with only 360 remaining. Their name comes from being the “right” whale to hunt because they swim slowly and close to shore.

Sustainable Marblehead Board Member and Sailors for the Sea Skipper Rob Howie was recently a panelist on a virtual congressional briefing where he and others from Oceana, an international ocean-protection organization, advocated for conservation measures to protect these endangered whales. Oceana presented a report that found upwards of 80% of large commercial fishing and shipping vessels 65' and over were not following mandatory or suggested speed limits, putting the whales at great risk of collision. The organization urged Congress to make all speed zone rules mandatory and require adequate enforcement.

Howie has seen right whales locally, including one damaged by a propeller, and spoke about the dangers to right whales created by the thousands of boats in our area, a number that is steadily increasing. He suggests that anyone seeing whales should keep clear and slow to 10 knots. Sightings can also be reported to the Harbormaster. To learn more about right whales and take action by signing a petition about the dangers of speeding ships, please click [here](#).

Upcoming Event



Land & Sea Cleanup – Please Sign Up!

September 11, 2021
9:30-10:30 a.m.

Please join Sustainable Marblehead and SPUR for our third annual cleanup. We will be mobilizing volunteers to clean trash and debris from our oceans, beaches and parks at over 30 locations.

Click [here](#) for more information or to volunteer, or call 781-451-7787



Did You Know?

Most stickers found on produce sold in grocery stores are plastic and not compostable.

What Can You Do?

Remove stickers before you compost your vegetable



and fruit peels and be careful not to let children or animals ingest them. Consider buying directly from farmers to avoid produce with stickers. For Change.org's petition asking grocers and the FDA to use alternative labeling methods like compostable labels, laser etching technology or 'washable' stickers, please click [here](#).

Support

Sustainable Marblehead is a community organization working to reduce waste and achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2040. Our work is important, and we can't do it alone. Please join us by donating today.

[Donate Today](#)



Copyright © 2021 Sustainable Marblehead, All rights reserved.

This email was sent to nerissarc@gmail.com
[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)
Sustainable Marblehead · P.O. Box 1320 · Marblehead, MA 01945 · USA

