



Preserving Our Past
by Protecting Our Future

News and Politics Redux



Last March, we wrote about a double challenge facing Marblehead:

- The loss of political representation on Beacon Hill after our State Representative Lori Ehrlich was tapped to head Region 1 of the Federal Emergency Management Agency – unfortunately not to be replaced for nine months until the next election, and
- The loss of hyperlocal news coverage as Gannet steered the Marblehead Reporter towards more regional reporting.

Thanks to heroic efforts of many in town, we're back in business on both fronts.

Jenny Armini has just been sworn in as State Representative for the 8th Essex District – comprised of Marblehead, Swampscott and parts of Lynn – following her election out of a crowded, six-person field in the Democratic primary in September. Sustainability and clean energy are among her major concerns.

Armini will have district office hours in the three towns over the next two weeks. Marblehead's meeting is on Monday, January 30, from 10:00-11:30 am at Abbot Hall in the Select Board Meeting Room. Or you can catch her online on Tuesday, January 24, from 6:00-7:00 pm. Email liam.morehead@mahouse.gov to get the Zoom link and RSVP.

Regarding the second, hyperlocal news challenge, as reported recently in the Boston Globe, Marblehead is now in the “golden age of journalism” with the advent of not one, but three new media outlets, in addition to those like the Marblehead Patch and Marblehead TV which continued to enlighten us when the Reporter moved on. The Marblehead Beacon, Marblehead Weekly News and Marblehead Current are all now vying for our attention. According to the Globe, although the local news business is in crisis, “[Marblehead is showing us a solution.](#)” (The article is also on our [Facebook page.](#))

Sustainable Marblehead has a monthly column in the Marblehead Current, which comes out the last week of every month.

[Read our recent media coverage](#)

Greening Our Community



On January 14, the League of Women Voters invited Marblehead Town Administrator Thatcher Keezer to address its Winter Membership Meeting on the topic of “Greening Our Community: Update on Town Projects and Initiatives.” The hybrid meeting took place both on Zoom and in person at the Abbot Public Library’s Eveleth School interim space at 3 Brook Road. For those who missed the talk, a [video recording](#) is available.

Keezer talked about Marblehead’s Net Zero Roadmap and the Green Marblehead Committee’s key strategies, including:

- Significantly increase the energy efficiency of buildings,
- Electrify heating and transportation,
- Transition to 100 percent carbon-free electricity in the Municipal Light Department portfolio,

- Encourage walking and biking as alternatives to car travel,
- Sequester carbon in trees,
- Reduce waste, and
- Create a Sustainability Coordinator position.

Sustainable Marblehead has enjoyed working with Keezer since he arrived six months ago, and we look forward to following the town's budget process over the next few months to encourage the creation of the Sustainability Coordinator position.

Earthshot Prize



Tired of climate doom and gloom? Check out the winners of the Earthshot Prize and learn about inspiring entrepreneurs worldwide who are developing creative climate solutions.

In December 2022, Boston was honored to be the site of the Second Annual Earthshot Prize awards ceremony. The prize, sponsored by Britain's Royal Foundation, goes to five winners each year for contributions to improving the environment. Winners in each of five categories receive prize money of one million pounds. The Prince and Princess of Wales lead the foundation and were in Boston to present the awards. The Earthshot Prize began in 2021 and will continue until 2030.

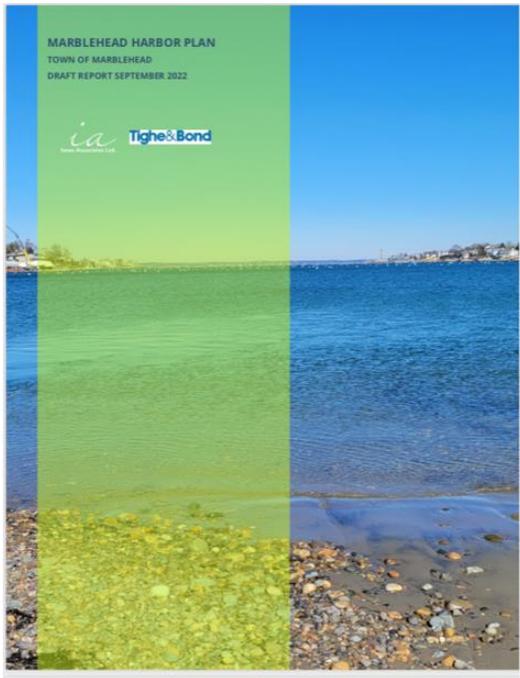
Earthshot's five categories are Protect & Restore Nature, Clean Our Air, Revive Our Oceans, Build a Waste-free World, and Fix Our Climate. Winners included:

- An Omani company that removes CO2 permanently from the atmosphere by mineralizing it in peridotite, a rock found in abundance in Oman as well as elsewhere in the world.
- A Nairobi-based company that develops clean stoves from recycled materials.
- A London company creating sustainable packaging from seaweed.

Clearly, there is an international movement to clean up our planet. The efforts of all these companies and organizations are amazing, and, while most of them are in the early stages of development, we hope their impact is soon felt around the world.

By Callie Brauer, Conservation Group

[Read full summary on our blog](#)



Harbor Plan Update

Coastal communities periodically develop a plan to document the status of Town-owned shoreline structures and facilities, assess how those facilities meet the needs of the community, and prioritize required maintenance and potential improvements going forward.

Marblehead received a grant in 2021 from the Massachusetts Seaport Economic Council to update the existing 2009 Harbor Plan, including

both the Main Harbor and the Marblehead side of Salem Harbor.

The Town hired a consultant to assist with the planning process and to lead a Harbor Plan Working Group consisting of Town staff and various citizen groups (including Sustainable Marblehead representation).

Public workshops were held in spring/summer of 2022 to gather community input. Based on input from these workshops and site inspections, the consultant has developed an initial draft of the Harbor Plan which is currently in review by the Working Group. It covers a wide range of suggested actions from simple maintenance of seawall areas to further consideration of major improvements to some public areas.

Once updated, the draft Plan will be made available for public review and comment (expected availability in early February).

by Steve Wolf, Harbor Group Chair



BEYOND PLASTICS

Plastic-Reduction Legislation Needed

Beyond Plastics, a grass-roots organization working to create legislation addressing plastic pollution, held a virtual meeting in January to discuss solutions to the plastic pollution crisis.

According to the organization, only six percent of all plastic produced is ultimately recycled. Many kinds of plastic are not recyclable at all.

Globally, 75 percent of the population favors a single-use plastic ban. More than 80 percent of US voters want the government to take action to reduce plastic. However, building up the political pressure to create policy and see the results takes a decade or more. Legislation reducing the plastic produced is the first priority, followed by reuse and recycling.

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) is a policy approach whereby

producers take responsibility for managing the disposal of products they produce. All of Europe, most of Canada and four US states have passed packaging EPR laws, but all fall short of where we need to be.

Toxic chemicals embedded in plastic packaging also need to be eliminated. Burning of plastics (called “chemical” or “advanced” recycling) releases air, water and land pollution and should be banned.

However, plastics producers have been strongly lobbying legislators and regulators and have advocated for weak EPR policies which accomplish very little. We need a counterproposal.

[Visit our blog](#) for a full summary of Beyond Plastics' recommendations.

By Kathy Breslin, Conservation Group

Upcoming Event

LOCAL AUTHORS CONFRONT CLIMATE

***Presentation and Q&A Session with Authors
Julia Glass and Patricia Hanlon***

Join us for a discussion on fiction, memoir and
how storytelling can inspire climate action

Thursday, January 26th

7:00-8:30pm

The Old Town House, Town House Square

\$15 per person

****free for students (registration required)***



Register here:



[www.sustainablemarblehead.org/
upcomingevents](http://www.sustainablemarblehead.org/upcomingevents)



Book Talk with Julia Glass and Patricia Hanlon

January 26, 2023, 7:00 pm
The Old Town House

Literature – whether fiction or memoir – can tell stories that incorporate climate change, stimulating our imagination and ultimately impelling us to take action.

To help motivate and inspire, Sustainable Marblehead will host a talk by two local writers: Marblehead author and National Book Award winner Julia Glass, whose latest novel *Vigil Harbor* came out last spring, and Ipswich artist and author Patricia Hanlon, whose memoir *Swimming to the Top of the Tide*, chronicles her swims in the Great Marsh.

Kimberly Grad, Abbot Public Library Director, will moderate the event.

[Learn more about this event and register.](#)



Did You Know?

The average shower lasts about eight minutes in the United States. Since the average showerhead has a water flow of 2.1 gallons per minute, each shower uses more than 16 gallons of water. Across the country, we use more than one trillion gallons of water each year just for showering.

And hot water is getting more expensive as energy costs rise.



What Can You Do?

Install a low-flow showerhead. If you sign up for a [home energy audit](#) with Marblehead Municipal Light Department or a [MassSave audit through Homeworks](#), you get low-flow showerheads for free.

The Environmental Protection Agency has this fun [worksheet](#) to teach children about water-saving habits.

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](#)

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