



ESSEX NATIONAL
HERITAGE AREA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**ESSEX HERITAGE ANNOUNCES 12th ANNUAL
PARTNERSHIP GRANT RECIPIENTS, WELCOMES NEW COMMISSIONERS
AT SPRING MEETING**

*\$25,000 AWARDED FOR 10 PROJECTS THROUGHOUT THE REGION, TRAIL INITIATIVES
HIGHLIGHTED, NEW COMMISSIONERS NAMED*

COMMUNITIES AWARDED:

**DANVERS | GLOUCESTER | HAVERHILL | IPSWICH | LAWRENCE
| NEWBURYPORT | SALEM | SALISBURY | TOPSFIELD**

May 20, 2010 (Salem, MA) ... The Essex National Heritage Commission (ENHC) held its Annual Spring meeting in Salisbury today, showcasing current Heritage Area initiatives including regional recreational trail development, welcoming newly elected members of the Commission and naming recipients of the 12th annual Essex Heritage Partnership Grant Program.

Director of Heritage Development, Bill Steelman provided an update on regional recreational trail development projects including the much anticipated official grand opening of new rail trails in Newburyport and Salisbury on Sunday, May 23rd.

Nine regional leaders were welcomed as new Essex Heritage Commissioners, serving a three year term. They include Wayne Capolupo, SPS New England, Inc., Marilyn Carlson, Saugus Historical Commission

Claire Crane, Robert L. Ford K-8 School, William Luster, North Shore Alliance for Economic Development, Heather Mc Mann, Groundwork Lawrence, Andrea Mones, Building Knowledge, Peter Phippen, Eight Towns and the Bay, Audrey Sullivan, Liniom Partners LLP, Dan Yaeger, New England Museum Association. Drawn from all corners of the Heritage Area, the new Commissioners join the ranks of 150 civic and business leaders who serve as community ambassadors, helping to advance the mission of preserving and promoting the region's heritage resources.

During the meeting Essex Heritage President Emeritus Thomas M. Leonard announced the reinstatement of the popular Essex Heritage Grant Programs. "Let me begin by saying that Essex Heritage is pleased to continue its tradition of making grant awards to a number of organizations that host our regional visitor centers. This system of satellite visitor centers complements and enhances the work of the larger centers operated by the National Park Service in Salem and the North of Boston Visitors and Convention Bureau here in Salisbury. Together they do an excellent job of sharing the region's nationally significant story with thousands of visitors and area residents alike. We offer our thanks and congratulations," began Mr. Leonard. He then went on to award 10 matching grants totaling \$25,000 to organizations in nine communities, providing financial support to projects that encourage interpretation and preservation of the unique historic, cultural and natural resources within the Essex National Heritage Area.

"The Essex Heritage Partnership Grants were available to non-profit organizations, cities and towns, government agencies and educational institutions in Essex County and they were awarded in three categories: *Heritage Education*; *Heritage Interpretation*; and *Heritage Preservation*, said Mr. Leonard, "Proposals that linked together resources and communities and increased the public's understanding of the Area's historically significant themes of Early Settlement, Maritime Era, and Industrial Era were particularly encouraged," he added

"Since Essex Heritage first established the grant program 12 years ago," said Annie C. Harris, Essex Heritage Executive Director, "We have awarded over 300 grants totaling \$1.5 million. In turn, these grants have been used to leverage an additional \$15 million in matching investment across the Essex National Heritage Area." Funding for the grant program is provided through grants to Essex Heritage from the US Department of Interior, and private donations.

Over the next year municipalities and nonprofit organizations will be working to implement a diverse range of educational, interpretive, and preservation projects. Recipients by town include:

Danvers**Town of Danvers**

The town will enhance the experiences of those using the emerging 4.3-mile Danvers Rail Trail through the design, fabrication, and installation of interpretive signs that tell the story of the corridor's transition from railroad to recreational asset.

Gloucester**Cape Ann Museum**

Utilizing the skills of preservation carpentry students from the North Bennet Street School the museum will continue the multi-phase restoration of the rare c.1740 barn adjacent to its White-Ellery House (1710), an important First Period house.

www.capeannhistoricalmuseum.org

Gloucester Maritime Heritage Center

Working in partnership, the Gloucester Maritime Heritage Center and Essex Shipbuilding Museum will document (video) and interpret (tours and video) the entire construction of *Tiger*, a 54-foot, 49-passenger traditional pinky schooner being built by eleventh generation boat builder Harold Burnham of Essex.

www.gloucestermaritimecenter.org

www.essexshipbuildingmuseum.org

Haverhill**East Parish Meeting House Society**

With the goal of sustaining use of the simple, 40'x 45' wooden structure as community hall the society's seven trustees will engage an experienced consultant to develop restoration and fundraising plans for the remarkably intact 1838 meeting house formally attended by Haverhill poet John Greenleaf Whittier.

Ipswich**Ipswich Museum**

The museum will implement *Dig It!*, a six-week after school program for middle school students who will learn about the discipline of archaeology by exploring the industries along the Ipswich River through hands-on activities and field trips.

www.ipswichmuseum.org

Lawrence**City of Lawrence**

Employing an innovative approach to immersing people in history the city will create a "walking cinema tour" of newly installed signs interpreting the horrific collapse of the huge Pemberton Mill in 1860, one of the worst industrial accidents in American history in which 145 workers were killed.

Newburyport**St. Paul's Church**

As part of a comprehensive restoration and rehabilitation program the church will fabricate and install a replica Gothic Revival trefoil window in a highly visible façade of its charming St. Anna's Chapel (1862).

www.stpauls-nbpt.org/history/stannaschapel.html

Salem**Salem Athenaeum**

The Salem Athenaeum will celebrate its bicentennial with a seven-month series of educational and cultural programs focused on the 1629 Endecott Charter, the seminal document establishing the Massachusetts Bay Colony, New England's first independent colony.

www.salemathenaeum.net

Salisbury

Town of Salisbury

During this initial phase of preservation planning project the town will commission a survey and create base maps documenting boundaries and all significant landscape features (headstones, monuments, walls, paths and trees) in the Old Colonial Burial Ground, the town's oldest.

Topsfield

Friends of Topsfield Trails

A broad spectrum of users will benefit from the continued development of the Topsfield Linear Common, a stone-dust recreational path linking schools, playgrounds, shops in the village center with neighborhoods and the Topsfield Fairgrounds.

www.friendsoftopsfieldtrails.org

A complete listing of 2010 grant recipients with corresponding photographs and captions can be found in a separate document that was attached to the email. If you would like photos in another format, please call 978 740 0444. For more visit the Essex Heritage website at

www.essexheritage.org or contact the Essex National Heritage Commission at 978-740-0444.

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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 or call (978) 740-0444.

About Essex Heritage Partnership Grant Program

The Essex National Heritage Commission (ENHC) Partnership Grant Program is a matching grant program created to foster collaboration between organizations that share the ENHC's mission to preserve and promote the historic, cultural and natural resources in the region. Since its creation in 1998, the program has awarded more than \$1.6 million to over 300 projects in all 34 Essex National Heritage Area communities.