



ESSEX NATIONAL  
HERITAGE AREA

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Pictures and Interviews available**

**Media Contact:** Mary Williamson  
Dir. of Development & Communications  
978-740-0444, Ext.14  
maryw@essexheritage.org

Annie C. Harris  
Executive Director  
978-740-0444

## **Essex Heritage Announces 2009 Pioneer in Partnership Awards**

*ENHC Elects New Officers and Commissioners at October Meeting*

**October 21, 2009 (Salem, MA) ...** Over 100 regional dignitaries and constituents filled the Community House of Hamilton & Wenham (Hamilton) as the Essex National Heritage Commission conducted its annual Fall business meeting, announced the recipients of its Pioneer in Partnership awards, appointed a new slate of officers, and elected thirteen new commissioners on October 20, 2009.

Attendees were welcomed by William Bowler, Hamilton Town Selectman. Other dignitaries in attendance included Richard Gandt, Topsfield Selectman, Gary Barrett, District Director for Congressman John F. Tierney, and several National Park Service officials, including Marty Sterkel, Chief of Partnerships for the National Park Service, Peter Samuel, Northeast Region Liaison to National Heritage Areas, Martha Raymond, National Coordinator to Heritage Areas, and Sue Pridemore, Heritage Partnerships Coordinator.

The Essex Heritage Pioneers in Partnership Awards are presented annually 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. ENHC Pioneer in Partnership awards were presented to: Alison Kelley, collector and founder of the

Amesbury Hat Museum. Mr. Peter Bryant, President of the Amesbury Treasures accepted the award on Mrs. Kelly's behalf, citing her tireless commitment to collecting and documenting Amesbury's hat manufacturing heritage. Nathaniel Pulsifer, of the Ipswich Historical Society and William Nelson, Ipswich Visitor Center, were recognized as Pioneers in Partnership for their collaboration as leaders within the Ipswich 375<sup>th</sup> Committee, a community collaboration that produced a series of events celebrating the 375<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Ipswich; and to Joseph Geller, chair of the Topsfield Rail Trail Committee, Topsfield Open Space Committee, Topsfield Recreation Committee and elected representative to the Topsfield Planning Board who was recognized for his decades of service to recreational trail development that came to fruition with the opening of the Topsfield Linear Park on Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup>.

Appointed as 2009 Officers for the Commission were: President: Kevin Tierney, Saugusbank; Vice Presidents: Richard Yagjian, Hunt's Photo & Video and David Hildt, Adelente Youth Center; Treasurer: John Meserve, Merrimac Savings Bank; Assistant Treasurer: Sean Flynn, Commonwealth Financial Network; Clerk: Frederic Winthrop, formerly of The Trustees of Reservations; Assistant Clerk: E. Stanley Dodge, Beverly Cooperative Bank; Immediate Past President: Nancy Huntington Stager, Eastern Bank; President Emeritus: Thomas M. Leonard, Essex National Heritage Commission; Trustee at Large: Paul McGinley, McGinley Kalsow & Associates, LLP; and NPS Liaison: Patricia Trap, Salem Maritime & Saugus Iron Works National Historic Sites. Annie C. Harris serves as the Essex National Heritage Executive Director. The meeting marked the transition of leadership from Immediate Past President Nancy Huntington Stager to Mr. Tierney.



Incoming Trustees who will serve a three year term are Sumner Jones of the Eastern Bank, and a resident of Salem and David Read of the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and a resident of Topsfield. Three 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: Wayne Burton, President of North Shore Community College and, also, the present President of the North Shore Chamber of Commerce, an energetic proponent for regionalism and ENHC; Laurence C. Harrington, Bank of America and the president of ENHC 2005-2007; and Richard St. Pierre, educator and volunteer extraordinaire – who has chaired the ENHC Education Committee and each year has volunteered at Mass History Day to be a judge for the Essex Heritage Award.

Thirteen new commissioners elected at the meeting for a three-year term were: Sheila Fields, Beverly Chamber of Commerce; Susan Goganian, Beverly Historical Society; John Good, Beverly National Bank; Glenn Mairo, Essex Harmony; Caleb Powers, Action Business Coaching; Joanne Scott, Boys & Girls Club of Greater Salem; Diane Seely, TD Bank; Cathleen Wardley, Boston Marriott Peabody; Tom Manuel, Danvers Business Owner; Joanne Scott, Boys & Girls Club of Greater Salem; Darryl Smith, Accountant; Michael Jones, Institution for Savings; Sal Lupoli, Business Owner; Delia O'Connor, Anna Jacques Hospital

A “State of the Heritage Area” report by Executive Director Annie Harris highlighted the organization’s strengthening partnership with the National Park Service, and the variety of projects being coordinated by both organizations. Ms. Harris’ report also documented many of the organization’s other milestones for the year, including the expanded Trails & Sails Program, an update on the Essex Heritage Scenic Byway Project and an update on the Partnership Grant Program.

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

###

 <p>ESSEX NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA</p>	<p><b>About the Essex National Heritage Area and Essex Heritage</b></p> <p>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 <a href="http://www.essexheritage.org">www.essexheritage.org</a> or call (978) 740-0444.</p>
	<p><b>About Salem Maritime National Historic Site</b></p> <p>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 <i>Friendship</i>. 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 <a href="http://www.nps.gov/sama">www.nps.gov/sama</a> or call 978-740-1650.</p>