S.W.I.M.
Nahant Safer Waters in Massachusetts

Autumn 2026 **SWIMNEWS** Volume 15 Issue 1

Dear Nahanter,
We invite you to explore our annual newsletter which is a summary of what we have been doing for the past year. Your concerns about our environment, your encouragement and your help are what make it possible for SWIM to continue strengthening our environmental resilience. We welcome your messages – send them along to nahantswiminc@gmail.com
Thank you.
Vi Patek, President

Thirteen years of cleaning our beaches – did we make a difference? Look at the enclosed flyer!!

We have archived every bit of trash collected across the past 13 years – you can look at the details on our website under "archive": www.nahantswim.org But we had never made a tally which would show the long-term results of this work by our citizens. Tallying thousands of items was a big job and the enclosed flyer shows the trends. **We have made a BIG difference!** Much of the trash thirteen years ago was old stuff which was just swishing around. We have picked up almost all of that, so now we are collecting new trash, and we are in control of our beautiful beaches! Many thanks to everyone who bent down and picked up trash!
Our April 12th Spring Cleanup was our thirteenth. On September 20 marked our tenth annual Autumn Beaches Cleanup Day synchronized with the Ocean Conservancy's International Coastal Cleanup program. The Girl Scouts' yellow trash baskets at our beaches access points are very effective - you can take one with you to your picnic, put trash in it, empty it into the town trash barrel as you leave, then put the basket back in the rack. If you find anything unusual, please email us at nahantswiminc@gmail.com

SWIM By-law re SGARS Passed at May 2026 Town Meeting by a Huge Majority

SWIM worked hard to craft this by-law and our voters approved with enthusiasm. The next step is for our by-law to be put into effect by the MA Legislature via a Home Rule Petition – then our Town will notify all pest control companies in our region that this class of rodenticides (SGARS: Second-Generation Anticoagulant Rodenticides) is banned on all land in Nahant. This poison can only be purchased by pest control companies and is not available for sale to individuals. SGARS cause internal bleeding and a very slow and painful death making rodents easy prey to pets, owls, eagles, hawks, and other wildlife who can suffer the same way. Even worse, a small child could get hold of some of the poison. To eliminate rodents, eliminate their access to trash and food scraps. Bags of trash on the sidewalk and open trash-barrels invite rodents and coyotes to dinner. Be sure your barrel is rat-proof and covered. Keep dog/cat food in rodent proof containers – preferably metal or very thick plastic. Feed birds with seed-filled suet blocks or with feeders placed high which do not spill out onto the ground.

Learn about Eelgrass and Marjoram Park on New Sign

There is a beautiful sign at Marjoram Park describing eelgrass and its critical importance to our environment. It illustrates and relates the history of our wharf and harbor. SWIM paid for this sign which is the same style and quality as the ones up on East Point. This project is the result of SWIM's collaboration with the Nahant Open Space Committee which created the beautiful and informative signs on East Point.

Techno Trash Cans at our Library – Take Advantage!

SWIM continues to donate Technotrash Bins to our Library for public use**.** These are collection boxes for CDs, diskettes, DVDs, ink cartridges, cell phones, videotapes, pagers, PDAs, and all small techno trash. This is yet another way you can protect our environment from destructive trash. Please remove all cases to increase space in the bins – for example, CD plastic cases. The bins are in the main entry area.

One Year of Free Composting Service for Nahant Residents

Go to https://nahant.org/compost/ to see the Town's description of the program. Nahant has allocated funds for a free composting program called *Island Gold*, and SWIM donated funds to provide free stainless-steel countertop bins to those who enroll. Take advantage of this FREE one-year program with a FREE countertop bin! At least 30% off all trash is compostable. Our trash fees are based on the weight of the trash taken from Nahant so composting saves all residents money! Compostable trash is very wet and heavy (think leftovers, vegetable parings, bones, banana peels, etc.). Composting saves taxpayers money!

More Actions by SWIM: monitoring the Boston Sewage Treatment Outfall – have a look at www.mwra.com

SWIM's President regularly attends the Outfall Monitoring Science Advisory Panel (OMSAP) meetings whose purpose is to advise the EPA and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MADEP) on scientific and technical matters related to the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority's Boston outfall and any potential impacts of the discharge on its receiving waters. Our President is also a member of the watchdog committee called Public Interest Advisory Committee (PIAC) which monitors OMSAP.

We believe that collaboration is vital to our mission to protect our environment, and we are grateful for our partnerships with our Town Administrator, Select Board, Open Space Committee, Library, Garden Club, and Historical Society.

SWIM's Ongoing Initiatives Include:

education of the public, participation in regional environmental seminars, standing up for the environment, acting as a first responder to threats to our beautiful environment here in Nahant, and serving as a resource for the public about environmental concerns. For more information, check out our website: www.nahantswim.org

Because of your support, SWIM can continue its important work protecting our beautiful beaches, open spaces and clear waters. We are proud of our growth as an effective local environmental organization and very much appreciate your commitment to our efforts.

Please consider making a gift to SWIM by using the form below and the enclosed blue envelope, or by donating online (see instructions below).

Nahant S.W.I.M. Inc. is a **nonprofit, tax-exempt charitable organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Donations are tax-deductible as allowed by law.**

Note: for copies of this newsletter and flyer, go to www.nahantswim.org and click "Resources" and "Archive". Thank you very much.

Vi Patek, President

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Please make your check payable to **Nahant S.W.I.M. Inc.** and mail to **PO Box 57, Nahant, MA 01908**.

To donate by credit card, go to our website www.nahantswim.org and click on the **golden rectangle**: "**DONATE NOW**"

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Please indicate your donation amount: ___Supporter $25 ___Benefactor $50 ___Steward $100 or more

PLEASE ADD ANY COMMENTS OR SUGGESTIONS YOU MIGHT HAVE RIGHT HERE: