



Autumn 2021

**SWIMNEWS**

Volume 10 Issue 1

## **Nahant is now a Tree City USA with a Tree Task Force**

SWIM worked for several years to help create a new by-law needed to apply for status as a Tree City USA, a program managed by the National Arbor Day Foundation. With the help of Zach Taylor, DPW Superintendent, who helped write the by-law, we presented it to our townspeople at the May 16 Town Meeting when it was accepted. Zach now has a volunteer Task Force helping him manage our public trees. This is a big step forward as our urban forest is declining rapidly due to age and disease. New trees need to be planted and through SWIM, twelve trees have been planted: six pine trees on East Point at Lodge Park on May 2, and six out of ten Arborvitae at the Town compost dump on October 19. Visit our website [www.nahantswim.org](http://www.nahantswim.org) under NEWS for photos. As part of our Plant a Tree Program, SWIM has pledged gifts to the Town for the planting of trees annually. Trees are good for our health. They cool us with their shade and calm us with their beauty. They clean our air and water. Let's plant trees!

## **See enclosed flyer about Aquatic Trash and Single-Use Plastic**

We hope you will find the enclosed flyer interesting and that it will encourage you to consider how you manage plastics and how you can reduce their production. Longtime Nahant resident Danny O'Connor has personally expressed his deep concern about plastic sawdust resulting from sawing plastic products and its danger to everyone who might be breathing it and to the air and water where it can settle. Please think about the effects of plastic on our health and on our environment.

## **Arbor Day Tree Planting at the Johnson School**

On March 30, Johnson School Principal Kevin Andrews and students planted a tree donated by SWIM in front of the school in celebration of Arbor Day. Our children are learning about the importance of trees!

## **North Atlantic right whales Visit Nahant, again.**

North Atlantic right whales visited our shores for almost a week in mid-April. On the 15<sup>th</sup> there were two N. Atlantic right whales vigorously feeding along with a big fin whale! To see spectacular videos, go to our website NEWS section at [www.nahantswim.org](http://www.nahantswim.org). One may have been #1017 named Batman - go to this site and see if you think so too: <http://rwcatalog.neaq.org/#/findwhale>. There are fewer than 400 left in the world. Our great grandchildren may never get to see any...

## **SWIM Sponsors Dune Grass Planting**

For the second year, thanks to our collaboration with DPW Superintendent Zach Taylor, on March 27 SWIM volunteers planted dune grass seedlings along Short Beach to help stabilize our fragile dune. We had a wonderful time planting the little seedlings which hold so much promise for protection of our most critical dune. SWIM paid for 3,300 seedlings. Go to our website NEWS section for photos! [www.nahantswim.org](http://www.nahantswim.org)

## **Consider Composting!**

Our town pays for disposal of waste by weight and compostable items add up to about a third of that weight. Compost and save taxpayer money! Please consider subscribing to the Black Earth Compost service, the only company that currently serves Nahant: <https://blackearthcompost.com>. They make it easy to compost!

## **SWIM Keeps Nahant's Beaches Clean**

Many thanks go to our diligent Beachkeepers who clean our beaches every month. On May 23 SWIM led our ninth annual spring cleanup of our three largest beaches. On September 12<sup>th</sup> we cleaned those beaches again. Across the years we are seeing a steady decline in trash on our beaches. Raising public awareness by offering the beauty of pristine beaches has a powerful effect.

## **Thank you for the new recycling barrels!**

Many thanks to our three Selectmen and to Tony Barletta, Town Administrator, for obtaining a grant and providing these barrels. The reduction in trash blowing around our town, into our storm drains and onto our beaches has been dramatic. (Remember: all plastic bags must go to supermarkets for recycling, Stop & Shop and Market Basket among others, and all Styrofoam must go into the trash).

## More Actions by SWIM

We have been deeply involved in issues related to the environment this past year:

- \*At Town Meeting on May 16 our executive director presented the results of the Wetlands Protection By-law Study Committee resulting in approval of the By-law by voters;
- \*For the 8<sup>th</sup> year, on May 11, our executive director attended the Outfall Monitoring Science Advisory Panel (OMSAP) 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 executive director is also a member of the watchdog committee called Public Interest Advisory Committee (PIAC) which monitors OMSAP and attended their meeting also.
- \* On March 31 our executive director attended *Zosterapalooza XXX*, a workshop from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 1 with a focus on current eelgrass research in coastal waters. SWIM has had a representative at this annual conference since 2015.

**We believe that collaboration is vital to our environment, and we are grateful for our partnerships with the Nahant Public Library, the Nahant Garden Club, the Nahant Department of Public Works, and our Selectmen.**

**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](http://www.nahantswim.org)


Because of your support, SWIM can continue its important work protecting our beautiful beaches, wild lands 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 go to [www.nahantswim.org](http://www.nahantswim.org) and click "Resources" and "Archive". Thank you very much.

Vi Patek, Executive Director

Nahant SWIM Inc., PO Box 57, Nahant, MA 01908  
[nahantswiminc@gmail.com](mailto:nahantswiminc@gmail.com)  
781-598-1060 [www.nahantswim.org](http://www.nahantswim.org)

\*\*\*\*\*  \*\*\*\*\*

Please make checks 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](http://www.nahantswim.org) and click on the **golden rectangle:** **"DONATE NOW"**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email (please write **CLEARLY!**) \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate your donation amount:  Supporter \$25  Benefactor \$50  Steward \$100 or more

SPSH SCA DEP TY NEW New e

Please add any comments/questions you might have: