



Town of Danvers
RIVER COMMITTEE

2007
Annual Report

The Danvers River Committee serves as an elected advisory board to the Planning & Human Services Recreation/Waterfront Division on the matters of Danvers Harbor. The committee consists of eight members who meet monthly from March through December at Danvers Town Hall. The committee includes support staff from the Harbormaster's Office, Christopher Sanborn and Selectman Gardner Trask, who acts as liaison to the committee.

Nearly fifteen years ago the River Committee began advocating for dredging in the Porter and Crane Rivers. Since 1984 when the Town last dredged, our channels have been filling in at such an alarming rate that many boaters were finding other cities and towns to berth the boats resulting in lost revenue and waterfront infrastructure. In 1990, Town Meeting began appropriating \$10,000 a year towards dredging the rivers. This ongoing appropriation of funds, along with revenues from waterway fees assessed to all boaters in Danvers, fulfilled the Town's 25% grant obligation for this project. This year, on behalf of the entire committee, I am pleased to announce that the dredging project is underway with a scheduled completion date in the early portion of 2008. Although dredging of our Town channels will be completed, the committee continues to support our private marinas with their projects.

Since the reconstruction of the boat launch ramp at Pope's Landing in 2006 the Town has seen a steady increase in usage. Last year, an estimated 2,500 boaters launched and hauled their boats at Pope's Landing. The re-construction of the launch ramp was a high priority project goal for the committee and we are pleased with the outcome.

One objective of the committee in 2007 was to improve the water quality of our rivers and beaches. Together with Salem Sound Coastwatch and other North Shore communities we are well on our way to declaring Salem Sound as a federal "No Discharge Area". This designation will essentially prohibit, by federal and state law, the disposal of waste water from boats within 3 miles of the Massachusetts coastline. In conjunction with the No Discharge Area designation the committee has supported the Town's efforts to obtain a grant for the purchase of a pump out boat. This boat will provide boaters with a clean and legal means of removing waste water from their vessels.

Lastly, the Committee is happy to see the Town has requested permission to expend funds from the Waterways Improvement Revolving Account to perform a study of the Crane River Marina banking. This study will be used to eventually take some action to properly stabilize the banking with some form of rip-rap to prevent it from eroding into river, hastening the need for dredging in the future.

I would like to take this time opportunity to thank our Harbormaster Christopher Sanborn and the River Committee for their continued support of all our past and future endeavors. In conclusion, the River Committee continues to support the Town's commitment to improve the quality of life of the inhabitants of Danvers and the boaters whom call Danvers their homeport.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the River Committee,

Aileen L'Abbe, Chair