

**Annual Meeting Notes Boston Harbor Association**  
**2/19/2025 6 pm to 8 pm**  
**South Bay Fire Station Meeting Room**

**Community attendance:**

- About 65-70 members attended.

**Board members in attendance:**

- Larissa James, President
- Kate Gervais, Vice-President
- Nancy Brown, Treasurer
- Jackie Ashley, Secretary
- Kim Kelley
- Scott Provost

**Absent:**

- John Payne
- Nina Goodrich

**Pre-meeting activities:**

- Check in Sheets, Voter Guides, Additional Nomination Forms, and Ballots were prepared before the meeting by Larissa and printed by Jackie.
- Larissa created a “Parking Lot” for questions for our panelists and introduced the concept at the beginning of the meeting.
- Ideas for community gatherings were presented, and stickers were distributed for voting on community recommendations from the survey.
- The BHA PayPal QR Code was available to pay the membership fee online instead of by cash or check and the agenda was displayed on the Welcome screen.

**Meeting:**

- The meeting was called to order on time 6 pm by Larissa James. The meeting started with the introduction of current Board Members.

**Sherrif:**

- Rueben Mancias, Undersheriff filled in for Sheriff Sanders to keep our meeting on time.
- Rueben started off describing his role and how he supports the Chiefs.
- The Sheriff arrived and noted that he was halfway through his term.
- Big improvements are happening with staffing and facilities. Both the Sherriff and the Undersheriff mentioned the Sheriff’s office is finally 100% staffed.
- A new Cadet program is being initiated. He is trying to get increased staffing implemented as soon as possible.
- Time allocated to the sheriff ended and Larissa moved on with our evening’s agenda.

**Fire Chief:**

- Chief VanCamp explained their process of measuring response and their goals to improve response time. No questions were asked by the group.

- Printed copies of the [Fire Department's annual report](#) as well as the [Winter 2024 South Bay Fire Department Newsletter](#) were provided.

#### **Thurston Count Utilities:**

- Water & Sewer Improvements were explained by Jeff Nejedly, BH Utilities Commission & Joe Plahuta from Thurston County Public Works.
- Starting April 1<sup>st</sup>, a lit sign at the intersection of Boston Harbor Rd and Boston Harbor Extension Rd will state where construction will be happening for septic tank replacement and upgrades.
- Not all residents who use the step system will be getting upgrades.
- Our treatment plant is unlikely to add more connections to the system due to the capacity of Nitrogen levels and permitting for their increase through Federal programs.
- More rate increases will be coming in the 2026-2027 season.

#### **Public Works Director:**

- Karen Weiss, Public Works Director, will be removing a dangerous tree by the Marina before the end of February.
- There could be some street closures while this work is being completed.

#### **Commissioner:**

- Carolina Mejia, Commissioner mentioned there is a tight budget this year due to an unanticipated decrease in sales tax revenue.
- They are looking into funding options for Burfoot Park expansion and reviewed the Parcel plan to retain the surplus land near to Burfoot Park.
- Critical Ordinance Complaints for a Garage project on Boston Harbor Road was brought to her attention, but she had to recuse herself because of attorney client privilege issues and therefore could not discuss that.
- **Q:** Byron Road Extension- Commissioner said she will get back to us with that information.
- **Q:** Cell Tower is being built on Zangle. The Commissioner had no updates, but mentioned it was a question better suited for Permitting.
- Critical Areas access and permitting process is being improved,

#### **BHA Annual Community Survey:**

- Scott provided a summary of the survey sent via email and postal mail to Boston Harbor residents in September 2024.
- The survey showed community members had a high knowledge of events in our community; however, participation in events was low.

#### **Financial Update:**

- Nancy spoke to the slides about 2024 expenses, revenue, and the 2025 budget.
- **Q:** Postcard mailings - one person expressed concern that these mailings are a waste of money. Larissa explained that not everyone has an email address, and postcards were the best avenue for getting out valuable information. Timeliness has been an issue, and we have no control of the Postal Service, but are trying to get them produced earlier. Jackie explained that the printing cost is small with postage bringing the most significant cost. One person left a nice comment at the "Parking Lot" that she loves the postcards and retains them for the reminders of events.

### **2025 Fireworks Show:**

- The statement about the decision concerning Fireworks was displayed for the audience to read to themselves (brilliant) and there were mixed reactions, but no large follow up questions:
  - *The Boston Harbor Association is saddened to announce that the long-standing tradition of our annual 3<sup>rd</sup> of July fireworks show will not take place this year. Due to the increasing risks and costs associated with the show, we have made the difficult decision to cancel the event. However, we are excited to introduce an alternative celebration to bring our community together!*
- Kate explained the event had grown too large for the Marina and Association to manage.
- The shore attendance and the boat attendance both have grown exponentially (there were over 500 boats on the water in 2024 compared to only about 200 in previous years).
- Both Kate and Larissa expressed potential liability concerns for the Boston Harbor Association and the Marina.

### **July 3<sup>rd</sup> Community Party:**

- Larissa announced that we are working on putting together a neighborhood event for July 3<sup>rd</sup> as a replacement for the fireworks.
- The July 3<sup>rd</sup> planning committee is working with the county to reserve Burfoot Park for the event.
- The Commissioner asked to be included in the event proposal to be sent to Thurston County Parks. The Sheriff indicated it would be, “business as usual” on the water and land for July 3<sup>rd</sup>.

### **Garden Club:**

- Kim Kelley asked Nancy Brown to thank the Garden Club (aka Sewer Sisters) for all its work in our community including taking care of Shipwreck Corner.

### **Election:**

- No additional nominations were received from the floor for the Board of Directors election.
- Larissa introduced the nominees that were present.
- Attendees were asked to review the nomination statements provided and to select up to three names on their ballots.
- Ballots were deposited into the ballot box as they left the meeting.
- Larissa and Kate counted the Ballots after the meeting adjourned.
- The elected Board Members are
  - Jackie Ashley
  - Melinda Atkinson
  - Ed Steinweg.

### **Meeting Adjourned at 7:45 pm.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Jackie Ashley, Secretary