



ESSEX NATIONAL
HERITAGE AREA

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Annie C. Harris appointed to the Planning Committee of the National Park System Advisory Board

*Essex Heritage Executive Director to help recommend vision and guidelines
for National Park System plan*

November 9, 2010 (Salem, MA) ... Essex National Heritage Commission Executive Director Annie C. Harris has been appointed to a prestigious two-year term on the Planning Committee of the National Park System Advisory Board by the Honorable Tony Knowles of Anchorage, Alaska, Chairman. The primary purpose of the Planning Committee is to recommend a vision and guidelines for a National Park System plan. As a member of the committee, and as the only member representing the perspective of the National Heritage Area movement, Ms. Harris will offer her expertise and advice about the role of National Parks and the National Park Service programs in addressing a wide range of purposes, including natural resource conservation, historic preservation, education, recreation and civic engagement.

“I am thrilled to commit time and energy to the Planning Committee’s work,” acknowledged Ms. Harris, “I know I will find it interesting, rewarding and an opportunity to demonstrate the tremendous value of the Heritage Area concept within the National Park Service and the constituencies it serves.”

The Planning Committee is one of a few subcommittees organized by the National Park System Advisory Board, a Board that was first authorized in 1935 under the Historic Sites, Buildings and

Antiquities Act. The Board advises the Director of the National Park Service and the Secretary of Interior on matters relating to the National Park System, the National Park Service and its programs, including the designation of national historic landmarks, national natural landmarks and historic trails.

The Planning Committee of the National Park System Advisory Board is chaired by Board Member Gretchen Long of Wilson, Wyoming. Other members serving on the Planning Committee along with Ms. Harris include Belinda Faustinos, Executive Officer of the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy; Michael V. Finley, President of the Turner Foundation, Medford, Oregon; Denis P. Galvin, Former Deputy Director of the National Park Service, McLean, VA; Jodi A. Hilty, Ph.D., Director, North American Program of the Wildlife Conservation Society, Bozeman, MT; Professor Robert B. Keiter, Wallace Stegner Distinguished Professor of Law, University of Utah; Mr. Knowles; Chairman, Pamela A. Matson, Ph.D., Chester Naramore Dean, School of Earth Science, Stanford University; Dwight T. Pitcaithley, Ph.D., Professor, Department of History, New Mexico State University; Raymond Rast, Ph.D., Asst Professor, Department of History, California State University, Fullerton, CA; Honorable Ed P. Reyes, Los Angeles City Council Member; J. Michael Scott, Ph.D., Professor, Department of Fish and Wildlife, College of Natural Resources, University of Idaho; Quintard Taylor, Jr., Ph.D., Scott and Dorothy Bullitt Professor of American History, University of Washington; Jennifer Wolch, Ph.D., Dean, College of Environmental Design, University of California, Berkeley.

For additional information, please visit: EssexHeritage.org

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About the Essex National Heritage Area and Essex Heritage

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 www.essexheritage.org or call (978) 740-0444.



About Salem Maritime National Historic Site

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 *Friendship*. 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 www.nps.gov/sama or call 978-740-1650.