



Autumn 2023

## SWIMNEWS

Volume 12 Issue 1

### **New Logo – see above!**

It took 3 years, and we finally have a new logo which expresses our purpose thanks to a generous person who donated the hours of work it took to create it. You can see water, birds, and a powerful tree which represents the land. Our mission is to protect our environment and the strong curves of the “S” wrap protectively around the natural elements. All materials printed in color will have the traditional blue background.

### **Read the enclosed flyer about composting.**

Five years ago, SWIM started encouraging Nahanters to compost using the Black Earth Compost Company. One by one people signed up and there were 75 customers in September when our Selectmen and our Town Administrator decided to offer a **pilot program** to residents. Informational postcards were sent out to all residents at the end of October. The program gives a free one-year subscription to the service to new customers and includes the outdoor bin and compostable bags. SWIM helped generate this pilot program and donated money to offer new customers a free steel countertop composting bin. All existing customers would receive 30% off their bill when we reached the threshold of 100 customers and as of November 1<sup>st</sup> we reached that number! The primary reason the Town created this pilot program is that it will save everybody money on their trash bills since almost half of the weight of curbside trash is compostable and trash cost is determined by weight (the trucks are weighed before being emptied). We are very proud to have helped generate this initiative and we are grateful to the Town for taking this big step forward. Extra special thanks to SWIM Director Ellen Goldberg for helping create the pilot program. You too can sign up today! Just go to <https://nahant.org/compost/>

### **SWIM Raises Alert to King’s Beach Sewage Pollution**

We alerted our Selectmen and Town Administrator to possible future contamination of our beaches by a proposal of a one mile long sewage outfall pipe which would end within a half mile of Nahant. They responded by communicating with our political representatives and other people involved in the quest to solve the problem. This is a regional issue and SWIM will stay alert to news in its capacity as guardian of our fragile environment. Stay tuned for updates by requesting to be on our distribution list if you are not already receiving news: [nahantswiminc@gmail.com](mailto:nahantswiminc@gmail.com)

### **Lodge Park and Bailey’s Hill Management Plans**

Thanks to our generous supporters, SWIM helped pay for two management plans whose purpose is to remove invasive plants, plant native plants, improve public access and safety, and beautify these precious open public spaces. These monetary gifts were the result of many meetings, site walks, and collaboration with the Nahant Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee. Work has already begun at Bailey’s Hill, including the planting of 76 shrubs and one tree. At Lodge Park, informational signs are being developed and our DPW is considering how to proceed with issues of safety, trail design and native plants as outlined in the management plan. SWIM will continue to support the restoration of Bailey’s Hill and Lodge Park to a healthier and sustainable condition which will support natural wildlife, pollinators, and passive recreation by people.

### **Do not use poison to kill rodents!**

If you are putting down poisons to kill rats and mice you might have already killed pets and wildlife because the rodenticides are slow killers causing internal bleeding and a slow and painful death, making them easy prey. Even worse, a small child could get hold of some of the poison... Consumers of poisoned rodents can bleed to death because the poison remains in the rodents’ bodies while they are dying. This issue was brought to the public’s attention after the deaths of Bald Eagles in local communities when it was proven that they were killed by rodenticides – in particular Second-Generation Anticoagulant Rodenticides (SGARS). To eliminate rodents we must eliminate trash. Bags of trash on the sidewalk invite rodents and coyotes to dinner. Trash should always be placed in a proper trash barrel. Support Mass Audubon and New England Wildlife Centers in their support of State Legislation to control use of rodenticides. Here is the link to the proposed law: <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/193/H825>

## Techno Trash Cans at our Library – take advantage!

SWIM donated 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 technotrash. This is yet another way you can protect our environment from destructive trash. The bins are in the main entry area.

## SWIM Keeps Nahant’s Beaches Clean

Many thanks go to our diligent Beachkeepers who clean our beaches. Our May cleanup was cancelled due to heavy weather. On September 17<sup>th</sup> we had our 7<sup>th</sup> annual Autumn Beaches Cleanup Day synchronized with the Ocean Conservancy’s International Coastal Cleanup. Our beaches are beautiful – thank you to everyone who bends down and picks up trash! If you find anything unusual, just email [nahantswiminc@gmail.com](mailto:nahantswiminc@gmail.com)

## More Actions by SWIM

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

\*For the 10<sup>th</sup> year, on March 2, our President 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 President is also a member of the watchdog committee called Public Interest Advisory Committee (PIAC) which monitors OMSAP and also attended their meeting.

\* On March 29 our President attended *Zosterapalooza XXXI*, 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 mission to protect our environment, and we are grateful for our partnerships with our Town Administrator, Selectmen, Library, Nahant Garden Club, and Department of Public Works.**

**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, 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 go to [www.nahantswim.org](http://www.nahantswim.org) and click “Resources” and “Archive”.  
Thank you very much.

Vi Patek, President

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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”

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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: