

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **RE: STATE TO REMOVE DESIGNATED PORT AREA FROM BEVERLY'S HARBOR**

April 6, 2015 – Beverly MA – The Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EOEEA) Office of Coastal Zone Management (CZM) has issued their Boundary Designation Decision relative to the Beverly Harbor Designated Port Area (DPA). The decision affirms the findings of the Boundary Review Report issued by CZM early 2015 and removes the DPA from the Beverly waterfront in its entirety. Prior to this Decision the Beverly DPA included property located along the Beverly Inner Harbor east of the Salem/ Beverly Bridge beginning with the former McDonald's property and continues east around Tucks Point to include parcels located on Silver Court. The decision to remove the DPA concludes by finding that none of the land and associated water areas within the DPA meet the criteria for determining suitability to accommodate water dependent industrial use.

Mayor Mike Cahill said, "Today is a monumental day for the City of Beverly. After over 40 years of limited access to our waterfront, today we have the opportunity to redevelop our water front and make it a more accessible space for our public to enjoy."

In 1978, The Commonwealth of Massachusetts established 11 Designated Port Areas (DPAs) including Beverly's waterfront. Other North Shore ports that have DPA restrictions are Gloucester Inner Harbor, Salem Harbor, and Lynn. These DPAs had particular physical and operational features important for water-dependent industrial uses—such as commercial fishing, shipping, and other vessel-related marine commercial activities—and/or for manufacturing, processing, and production activities that require marine transportation or need large volumes of water for withdrawal or discharge

The City of Beverly formally requested CZM initiate a Boundary Review process for the Beverly DPA in April, 2014 as part of a broader review of current land use and future development opportunity for the Beverly waterfront. A series of public meetings were conducted by the City of Beverly summer 2014 in conjunction with the boundary review to identify an appropriate mix of land uses and the scale of development seeking to activate the waterfront and make it more accessible to the broader community while continuing to support existing uses.

Mayor Cahill continued, "I want to thank the citizens of Beverly for their participation in this public process. I want to also thank members of my administration for their hard work, the City Council for their support during this process, and CZM for making a thoughtful decision regarding our waterfront. Our goal has always been to add uses, not subtract them, at our waterfront and this is a crucial step towards achieving this. We look forward to smart, thoughtful development, which will provide public accommodations and a destination to live, dine, shop, work and relax."

The City Council and Planning Board scheduled a public hearing relative to the proposed Beverly Harbor District the same day the Boundary Designation Decision was issued. The proposed amendment ensures local control over development on the waterfront and seeks to support and grow water dependant uses while introducing mixed-use development to bring more consistent access and activity to the waterfront.

“This is a critical first step in realizing the kind of development on the waterfront that improves public access, support water related businesses, and infuse more activity on our waterfront ” stated Director of Planning and Development Aaron Clausen.

A copy of the report may be found on the City of Beverly web page at:  
[www.beverlyma.gov/departments/planning](http://www.beverlyma.gov/departments/planning) under “Beverly Harbor Planning Process”.