

The Daily Item



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Protecting our area's beaches

Lynn has so many valuable resources. It has the woods and the golf course. It has schools and playgrounds. And it has state-of-the-art municipal athletic facilities that have served as the inspiration and model for other communities.

But perhaps its most picturesque asset is the stretch of shoreline that runs from Nahant to Swampscott. You can extend that, too. The beach, and all it offers, is a communal asset from Revere through Swampscott.

This is why it is such good news that the city has representation on the Metropolitan Beaches Commission in the form of Rep. Donald Wong of Saugus.

This commission is charged with some pretty important things to ensure the future of the coastline, including identifying and trying to fund projects that will keep the various seawalls up to standards so they are not breached.

Wong says, “the commonwealth’s beaches are among our most valuable resources and deserve our strongest efforts to promote improved water quality and to maintain the beaches’ beauty for generations to come.”

This is true. Go to the beach on any hot day and you’ll see exactly how true that is — if you can find a spot.

But protecting the beaches is more than just a function of aesthetics. There’s also the matter of containing the ocean during fierce storms so that life and property are protected. The steady pounding of the ocean up against those seawalls, winter after winter, year after year, causes erosion. Eventually, these barriers will crumble and cause untold destruction.

In the case of Lynn, the city has been able to take that stretch of Lynn Shore Drive and turn it into one of the most popular recreation areas around. Even in the dead of winter, with biting-cold temperatures and howling winds, you will find people along that boulevard, walking or running. And it goes without saying that in the summer, the place is packed with people constantly.

We appreciate that the state has expanded the Metropolitan Beach Committee’s numbers from 19 to 27 members, as it points up the urgency of making sure these areas are protected.

And we also appreciate that Rep. Wong will be part of the decision-making process. For it’s not just Lynn that will benefit from this attention. Among the metropolitan beaches in this area are Nahant Beach, Red Rock Park, King’s Beach, Lynn Beach, Revere Beach, Short Beach in Revere and Winthrop Beach. That is a lot of valuable real estate to protect.