

# DANVERS BI-PEDS NEWS

Volume 3, Number 3, Fall, 2005



## TOWN MANAGER 'BIKE PATH' UPDATE

Remember January 18, 2005? That was the date when the Danvers Bi-Peds went before the Board of Selectmen presenting a comprehensive report and asking that the Board write a letter to the MBTA requesting a lease on the Newburyport Branch rail right of way. It was taken under advisement.

On September 20, the town manager reported back with an update. The full report which he presented is at this time still available on line at [www.danvers.govoffice.com/](http://www.danvers.govoffice.com/). Type in *bikes doc* in the search box. Basically, the report confirms all the information which we presented to them in January except that we never called it a 'bike path' because such a term ignores the fact that at least half the users are pedestrians. The report brought up the concern over the possibility that contaminants could be found which the town would have to deal with. The state has been working to alleviate these concerns with Best Management Practices where by they can be capped and House Bill 4217 currently working it's way through the legislature also addresses this concern.

The Manager addressed the 'next step' by saying; **“One course of action in the near term could be a request from the Town to the MBTA that they review the potential availability of the rail beds, should the Town decide to pursue a bike path. Upon receipt of such a written request, the MBTA would conduct a survey of the lines and make a determination, usually within a few months, as to whether the rail beds are available for a potential bike path. It wouldn't be until that point that the Town would be in a position to make a decision as to whether to go forward with a bike path.”**

Such a request would not commit the town to any further action but would prevent the land from being sold off by the MBTA due to inaction by the town. It would also provide us with official word that the rail beds are available. But it seems even that was too much for the Board of Selectmen at this time.

Mr. Marquis concluded by saying, **“One interesting consideration might be the option of acquiring the rail beds for Open Space protection, which would preclude private parties from buying or leasing the land for development. I don't have figures yet on the precise acreage involved, but it is well in excess of 13 acres.”** So what are the Selectmen waiting for?

**Next Bi-Peds Meeting  
October 17, 2005, 7:00 pm, Town Hall**

## OCTOBER 17, 2005 - IMPORTANT MEETING

Even if you do not happen to live near the intersection of Wenham and Locust Street, at some point in time everyone probably passes through that area and is familiar with how dangerous it is, especially for bikers and pedestrians. The Department of Public Works is holding a long awaited meeting on October 17 at 7:00 pm in the Dan Toomey Conference Room at the Town Hall to discuss roadway improvements, adding a section of sidewalk, improving drainage and resurfacing Wenham Street. As this meeting time conflicts with the regularly scheduled Bi-Peds meeting, all Bi-Peds members and interested persons are asked to attend the roadway meeting in lieu of a Bi-Peds meeting.

This is an opportunity to have a say in creating safer biking and walking conditions in Danvers. Please attend.

## DOES NIC EQUAL NIMBY

There appears to be a new group in town known as the *Neighborhood Information Council* whose initials just happen to spell NIC. There were several at the September 20 Selectmen's meeting recognizable by the green folders they carried. The town manager, in his report, addressed the concerns which they brought up in the material which they had presented to the Selectmen.

There presence probably was behind Chairman Ken Brown's statement that a workshop should be set up with 5 presenters from the Bi-Peds and 5 from the NIC. The Bi-Peds are awaiting word on when, where, and how this workshop is to be run.

## NEW BROCHURE - MULTI- USE TRAILS ARE THE FUTURE OF DANVERS

Charles Lincicum is working on a new brochure aimed at showing people what a rail trail can do for Danvers. It is hoped it will educate and alleviate the concerns of some residents.

## CONTEST WINNERS

"Why I want a rail trail in Danvers" essay contest winners were announced on August 22 after the 3 judges made their decisions. As the Youth Division Winner, Amanda Hathaway of Prospect St., Danvers received a \$25 gift card donated by Western Cycle. Mildred Clarke of N. Main St., Middleton was chosen the Adult Winner and received a \$25 gift certificate from Landry's Bicycles. Danvers Selectmen Keith Lucy remarked as a judge that the children's essays all had a common thread of safety, family, and nature. The other 2 judges were Jamie Fischer of Western Cycle and Alison Dewey of Landry's Bicycles.

On Sunday, August 21, the winners and several of the participants met on the tracks in down town Danvers to be awarded their prizes. Goodies Ice Cream awarded 2 certificates for cones to each of the other participants so everyone got to go home a winner. They stood wistfully among the weeds on the tracks hoping that their community will soon have a rail trail and they feel everyone will then be a winner.

Danvers Bi-Peds wishes to thank all the participants, the 3 Judges, and the 3 merchants who helped make the contest possible. Thanks also go to those who took time out of their busy summers to enter the contest.



## PRECINCT COFFEE HOURS

Although the precinct coffee hours are off to a slow start, they should be scheduled soon. The purpose of the coffees is to inform and answer questions about rail trails as many people may not have a clear picture of what such a linear park could add to the Danvers community. It is not possible to meet with everyone in town but thought it was good to begin with the town meeting members as they have already demonstrated an interest in the town.

We still need people in precinct 2, 6, and 7 to volunteer to host coffee hours for the town meeting members in there precinct. The hosts will only need to supply the hospitality, members of the Bi-Peds Board will be present to talk about rail trails and answer questions. The following people have already volunteered to host a coffee hour: Matt Duggan in 1, Larry Tormey in 3, Keeling Dawe in 4, Lew and Marjorie Hathaway in 5, and Charles Lincicum in 8. Call 978-774-8159 if you can help with this project.



## Why I Want a Bike Trail in Danvers

By Amanda Hathaway, Age 9  
Youth Division contest winner

I want a bike trail in Danvers because it would be fun to ride or walk on a nice clean trail that is paved. I wouldn't have to worry about getting hit by a car. I also want a bike trail in danvers because I could practice rollerblading without riding on the bumpy sidewalk. I could also walk my dog Gracie on the trail. Another reason I want the bike trail is I could see nature and get to hang out with my family more.

## INGRID BARRY NOMINATED AS A COMMISSIONER TO ENHC

Ingrid Barry was nominated by the Essex National Heritage Commission President, Tom Leonard, for the position of Commissioner. She has accepted. ENHC, established by Congress in 1996, is one of 24 heritage areas in the country. Their mission is to enhance awareness and encourage the use of the historic, cultural and natural resources of the Essex County area. They are very interested in preserving abandoned rail lines as pathways as it fits with this mission. Ingrid Barry is honored to be asked to serve as one of the 150 commissioners in the 500 square mile area.

## CHECK OUT [www.danversbipeds.org](http://www.danversbipeds.org) SOMETHING NEW IS BEING ADDED

Answers to frequently asked questions will now be available on our web site. Direct all your friends to it for valuable information on all aspects of rail trails.



3 Riding Club Road  
Danvers, MA 01923

**DO YOU HAVE A BIKING OR WALKING CONCERN OR SUGGESTION?**  
Please let us know about it. Call any board member.  
Together we may be able to work on it.

## ***A Billion for Bicycles***

*The President signed the Transportation Bill known as SAFETEA-LU on August 10, 2005. It provides approximately \$3.5 billion dollars for bicycling (and pedestrian) related projects. To put this number in perspective, consider that as recently as 1991 bicycling received virtually no dedicated federal transportation funds.*

*\$3.5 billion in funds for bicycling can be counted as a big win, but it is still only 1.5% of transportation funding.*

*Federal funding for bicycling and walking has risen from virtually nothing prior to 1992 to \$700,000,000 per year in the recently passed SAFETEA-LU transportation legislation.*

*(This was taken from a League of American Bicyclist letter)*

## **UPCOMING BI-PEDS ACTIVITIES MARK YOU CALENDARS**

### **October 17, 2005**

The Department of Public Works is holding a long awaited meeting on October 17 at 7:00 pm in the Dan Toomey Conference Room at the Town Hall to discuss roadway improvements, adding a section of sidewalk, improving drainage and resurfacing Wenham Street. As this meeting time conflicts with the regularly scheduled Bi-Peds meeting, all Bi-Peds members and interested persons are asked to attend the roadway meeting in lieu of a Bi-Peds meeting.

## **Make Your Voice Heard on the 20 Year State Transportation Plan - Final Meeting - October 18, 2005**

MassBike has been working hard to get bicyclists' concerns into the state's 20 Year Transportation Plan, but nothing helps make that a reality like state officials hearing directly from concerned cyclists. You have a chance close to home to speak out about the importance of bicycling and why the state should make it a priority:

Tuesday, October 18, 2005--Lynn City Hall, City Council Chamber: 3 City Hall Square, Lynn

The meeting features both daytime (3:00 p.m.) and evening (6:00 p.m.) sessions with a presentation from state staff and a chance to share your views.

(The above information was adapted from the MassBike October Update.)

## **Hikes on Proposed Rail Trail**

Bi-Peds will be holding hikes on the proposed rail trail area as soon as permission is granted by the MBTA. Watch for e-mail and phone updates. See some of the hidden wonders of Danvers.

# MEMBERSHIP MATTERS!

## Why Not Rail Trail?

My husband and I are older bicyclists who have enjoyed many trips on rail trails all over New England and elsewhere. We also have done on-road trips since 1980. We are still avid bikers with "The Top of the Hill Gang".

I've listened to the pros & cons of having a rail trail on the abandoned railroad bed in Danvers. What could be better for a community than a safe, comfortable place to walk, bike and do other activities to enhance one's health and enjoyment?

I really don't understand why people are so fearful of people going on trails behind their homes. Anyone who is out enjoying these areas has no intention of intruding on to private property. Relax homeowners, wherever the trails will go you have nothing to worry about. Just consider the positive result of these trails for the folks of Danvers and adjoining towns.

Come and take part with us. Many people from lots of nearby areas ride "The Minuteman Trail" from Bedford to Boston. What a great way to meet friendly folks and visit several communities on the way.

Danvers Bi-Peds, we wish you the best in your efforts to go forth with this wonderful plan in Danvers for people of all ages.

by Mildred Clark. Adult Essay Winner



## Renewal notice

Has your membership run out? Show your interest in safer biking and walking in Danvers by renewing your membership today, before you forget. As little as \$10 will keep you on the membership list. All the money goes toward our goals. If you want Danvers to become a town with a beautiful rail trail; the bigger our membership total, the greater our influence. Please, renew.

**And remember, your membership can save you money when you show your membership card while shopping at Landry's Bicycles, [www.Landrys.com](http://www.Landrys.com) or Western Cycle, [www.western-cycle.com](http://www.western-cycle.com).**

**Silent supporters don't get safer biking and walking. Help change the status quo. Please join our growing list today.**

## Volunteer Opportunities

Bi-Peds want to spread the word about rail trails and safer biking and walking conditions. We will be holding an information table downtown on good weather Saturdays mornings. Help is needed, experience is not needed. Young people are welcome. Call 978-774-8159.

### CHECK OUT THESE INFORMATIVE WEB SITES

[www.danversbipeds.org](http://www.danversbipeds.org)      [www.railtrails.org](http://www.railtrails.org)  
[www.bikeleague.org](http://www.bikeleague.org)      [www.massbike.org](http://www.massbike.org)  
[www.americawalk.org](http://www.americawalk.org)      [www.bikewalk.org](http://www.bikewalk.org)

[www.danversbipeds.org](http://www.danversbipeds.org)

Become a member or  
ASK A FRIEND TO JOIN

**YES! I want to help make Danvers a safer place to bike and walk.**

### MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name .....

Address .....

.....

Phone.....

E-mail.....

- \$100 Corporate  
 \$50 Proponent  
 \$35 Supportive  
 \$20 Family  
 \$10 Adult  
 \$5 Youth (under 18)  
 I'm not ready to become a member but I think your goals are good for Danvers.

Make check payable to  
Danvers Bi-Peds  
c/o Larry Tormey  
21 Bradley Road  
Danvers, MA 01923

### Danvers Bi-Peds Board Members

**President:** Ingrid Barry 978-774-8159  
**Vice President:** Matt Duggan 978-777-1884  
**Secretary:** Maxine Taymore 978-777-5707  
**Treasurer:** Pat Gagnon 978-774-1948  
**Membership Chairman:** Larry Tormey 978-774-6630  
**Board of Directors:**  
Ralph Ardoff 978-774-7123  
Robert Farley 978-356-2183  
Keelin Dawe 978-750-4111  
Donald Gates 978-774-4682  
Charles Lincicum 978-777-5574