

DANVERS BI-PEDS NEWS

Volume 4, Number 1, Spring, 2006



SELECTMEN DIRECT TOWN MANAGER TO NEGOTIATE A LEASE

On February 21 the Selectmen took up the question of the leasing of the rail bed from the MBTA. With only 4 Selectmen present, on a vote of 3 to 1, they directed Wayne Marquis to negotiate a lease with the MBTA. But they all had varying opinions as to why and there is no guarantee that they will give their approval to the town manager to sign the lease. The opposing vote came from Randall Sparkas, Chairman Ken Brown was not present. Only Keith Lucy tried to push for more action toward an actual multi use pathway. An update was requested from Mr. Marquis by June 20th. which will be after the May elections and will see some change in the Board.

The support of all those dreaming of the day when Danvers will have a rail trail who attended the Board of Selectmen meeting that evening was appreciated.

TOWN MEETING

As the Bi-Peds continue to try to inform residents of Danvers about various aspects concerning a rail trail for Danvers, they sent each town meeting member a packet of information, including a stamped, self addressed post card to return. This was followed up by a phone call to those members whose post cards got buried in that 'mail to tend to later' pile which we all have.

Matt Duggan should be commended for all the work he put into this project. He also wrote an citizen's petition or warrant article, which if approved, will go on the May town meeting agenda asking for a show of those who support efforts by the town to study the feasibility of construction of a multi use path on the Newburyport Rail line. If Matt is successful in his bid for a town meeting seat, he will be among those showing his support.

**CHECK OUT THE NEW WALKING GROUP
SEE PAGE 2**

YOUR HELP NEEDED MEETING ADJACENT HOMEOWNERS

Those working closely with promoting the proposed rail trail have a clear vision of what it will be and will mean to Danvers. But many in town have not yet heard about it or have questions and concerns. This is especially true of some of the adjacent homeowners. In the coming months, members of the Bi-Peds hope to begin meeting with these people in their homes at a time convenient to them. During the visits, the Bi-Peds representatives will listen and note their concerns, attempt to answer questions and provide facts. The concerns will be compiled and turned over to the town at the appropriate time.

This project is going to take time and volunteers. Anyone who can help is urged to come forward. If you are acquainted with an adjacent homeowner and wish to contact only that person, let us know. This trail should be a community effort from the beginning. Contact Matt Duggan at by phone 978.762.1504 or duggan@danversbipeds.org or Ingrid Barry at 978-774-8159 or ibarry@danversbipeds.org.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

April 17 from 7:00 to 9:00 pm in the Carriage House at Endicott Park. The discussion will include a talk from Joan Townley of the Open Space and Recreation Committee currently working on the next 5 year plan.

May 22, the annual meeting, will be held at the Community Room of the Danvers Savings Bank. There will be a short business meeting from 7:00 to 7:30 followed by guest speaker, Steve Golden of the National Park Service. See details on page 2.



NEW WALKING GROUP

It all started with the talk by Betsy Goodrich followed by an e-mail from Donna Jamrog. During the talk at the March Bi-Peds meeting, it was suggested that to keep an advocacy group vibrant and alive, it should offer something to the community in addition to advocacy. Annually the Bi-Peds does offer a bike ride or 2 and sponsors an event during Trails and Sails Weekend put on by Essex National Heritage Commission along with an occasional walk. They have met with limited success. Then along came an e-mail from Donna Jamrog expressing an interest in finding a walking group. A few e-mails later and we had a date, time, and walk leader for the first walk which was April 3, newspaper coverage, and 2 more walk leaders and locations confirmed. E-mail notices were sent out to all those on the list. Ingrid hopes that they all were received.

It is hoped that future walks will start from various points around town, including open spaces, so that while walking, people also become acquainted with other parts of town. Since it is just forming, **the group is open to suggestions as to frequency, time, length, and speed.** While walking, participants will also be able to assess the walkability of the different neighborhoods. Such conditions as broken or obstructed sidewalks or missing cross walks could be noted. The information will be passed on to Susan Fletcher,

Assistant Director of Planning at town hall. Since she works with the Disability Committee and poor sidewalks are especially hazardous to those with disabilities, she will work to get improvements made. More people calling attention to sidewalk conditions may bring more improvements.

Put on your walking shoes and join the group. Anyone is welcome, one does not have to be a Bi-Peds member to join. **April 10** the group will leave from **3 Riding Club Road** for a walk within the Locust, Summer, and North Streets area. **April 17** will also leave from there and walkers will tour the many short streets off of Locust. A special walk is planned for **April 24.** Nancy McCarthy, co-owner of Natural High Fitness Club, Inc. of Newburyport, will give walkers the opportunity to learn about and try Nordic walking. www.naturalhighfitness.com That day the group will meet **in front of the high school at 5:45.** **Nordic walking** will be limited to the first 12 to 15 people. All others can enjoy a walk around the Woodvale area of Danvers. Walk leaders are needed for May and beyond. Show us your part of town. For more information, to make a suggestion, or volunteer - contact Ingrid Barry 978-774-8159 or ibarry@danversbipeds.org. A coordinator for these walks to continue is also needed to keep people informed of the locations.

TRACK WALK CANCELED

The track walk mentioned in the last newsletter was canceled when it was learned that it would cost \$500 for the MBTA to do the paper work. Since it is technically trespassing to do it as a group without their permission, everyone is on their own to learn about where the tracks go in Danvers.

HOME OWNER SIDEWALK DUTIES

Spread the word - vegetation planted by the homeowner should not hang over the sidewalk or grow on top of it. Trees over the sidewalk should clear it by 8 feet. Accumulated leaves and dirt on the walk should be removed. The sidewalk was no doubt 5 feet wide when it went in and it should remain that way. Broken sidewalks should be reported to Public Works at 978-762-0231 or go to www.danvers.govoffice.com and fill out the contact form under public works.



Annual Meeting, Guest Speaker

The Bi-Peds Annual Meeting will be held on May 22 at 7:00 pm. in the Community Room of the Danvers Savings Bank located on the corner of High and Park Streets. The guest speaker will be Steve Golden of the National Park Service. Through a grant from the Rivers and Trails Program of the NPS, he has been working with the 8 communities from Danvers to the New Hampshire border along the Newburyport Branch. Through his efforts it is hoped that the 8 communities may work together to ease construction of a rail trail.

Steve Golden has been the Rivers & Trails Program Manager for New England and New York from 1986-present. During that time he has established a program to serve and advocate for community-based conservation and recreation in 7 states. Annually, the program staff of 20 plays a major role in protecting rivers; establishing new miles of trail; and support projects in 75 communities ranging from the very urban South Bronx to the wilds of Maine. Steve has worked on such projects as the Portland Trails network, the Cape Cod Pathways, and the Northern Forest Canoe Trail. He is an avid hiker having done the entire Appalachian Trail in 1972 and is a bicycle commuter. During his talk at the Bi-Peds annual meeting on May 15, he will share his enthusiasm for and knowledge of trail projects.

ENDICOTT PARK DAY

Endicott Park Day, part of the popular Danvers Family Festival, will be July xx and once again the Danvers Bi-Peds will have a table. Anyone with ideas, equipment, freebees to hand out, etc. to make our display of information on the proposed rail trail and other biking and walking issues more eye catching and fun, please don't hesitate to contact one of the board members listed on the back or e-mail ibarry@danversbipeds.org. Volunteers are also needed that day to talk with the people passing by. No special knowledge is needed, just a smile and enthusiasm.

NEW BROCHURE

Charles Lincicum has designed a new brochure with fact, quotes, and information concerning a rail trail for Danvers. It was included in the packet of information which went out to all of the town meeting members. It is available to download from the web site, www.danversbipeds.org or by calling Ingrid Barry at 978-774-8159.

WELCOME TO ALL OUR NEW MEMBERS SINCE JANUARY

ADULT

Sean Miller
Lorraine Dupont

FAMILY

Ernest and Debra Dion
Andrea and James Cutter
David and Sheila Coughlin
William and Gail Triant
Nancy and Family Gaffney
Joseph and Barbara Younger

SUPPORTIVE

Joan and David Townley

PROPONENT

John and Eileen Harriss
June and Bill Dolan

CORPORATE

Barbara and Roland Morin

SPONSOR

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.....

- Sponsor
- \$100 Corporate
- \$50 Proponent
- \$35 Supportive
- \$20 Family
- \$10 Adult
- \$5 Youth (under 18)

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

Remember to show your membership card
for a discount while shopping at Landry's
Bicycles, www.Landrys.com or Western
Cycle, www.western-cycle.com .

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE RENEWED SINCE JANUARY

John and Shirley Fraizer	Richard and Rena Noring
Charles and Mary Burke	Linda Cignetti
Elaine Cidzik	Diane Langlais
Tim and Cindy Murphy	Katey Carlin
Willard & Rita Steadman	Audrey and Roger Michaud
Albert & Margaret LeVasseur	Albert and Donna Tosches

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

One way that strong support for an idea is shown is by the size of membership in the organization promoting it. Some of you are receiving this newsletter as an invitation to join the Bi-Peds. The membership secretary hopes you will accept this invitation by filling out the membership form and mailing it in to the address shown.

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 Ardiffe	978-774-7123	Robert Farley
Donald Gates	978-774-4682	Keelin Dawe
Charles Lincicum	978-777-5574	978-356-2183
		978-750-4111

BETSY GOODRICH, OF RTC, ON COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Betsy Goodrich of Rails to Trails Conservancy was the guest speaker at the March 20 meeting. She discussed ways to get and keep community support. Using examples from other New England towns, she stressed how some advocacy groups had become resources in their towns, whether it was leading tours or places where people could go for information. Pointing out that advocacy groups needs to be focused on more than just the goal of getting a multi use pathway, she encouraged the Bi-Peds to find out what the people in town might need and become a resource for those needs with the goal of becoming a positive resource to the town. It is important to keep our members and the community as a whole interested by offering new and creative activities – not just advocacy for the bike path. Betsy also stressed partnering with other organizations in town.

Realizing that a rail trail is not something everyone in Danvers currently thinks is a good idea, Betsy emphasized the importance of listening to everyone's concerns, especially adjacent homeowners; being open to whatever is concerning them and asking questions about what their needs and desires are.



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.

UPCOMING EVENTS, SCHEDULED TO DATE

APRIL 10 - 5:45 pm, Bi-Peds walkers leave from 3 Riding Club Road.

APRIL 17 - 5:45 pm, Bi-Peds walkers leave from 3 Riding Club Road

APRIL 17 - 7:00 pm, Monthly meeting at the Carriage House, Endicott Park.

APRIL 24 - 5:45 pm, Bi-Peds walkers try out Nordic Walking or regular walking, meet in front of the Danvers High School.

APRIL 30 - 9:30 AM, Tour de Marblehead Bike Ride meet at Salem State College- central campus parking lot - Loring Avenue (Rt. 1A).

MAY 2 - Don't forget to vote.

MAY 22 - 7:00 pm, Annual meeting at the Community Room at the Danvers Savings Bank.

TOUR DE MARBLEHEAD BIKE RIDE, APRIL 30

Larry Tormey of the Danvers Bi-Peds will lead a ride around Marblehead taking in two recreation trails and such sights as Castle Rock on The Neck, Lighthouse at Chandler Hovey Park, Abbott Hall to view original "The Spirit of 76" painting by Archibald Willard, Crocker Park, and Fort Sewall. Riders will meet at 9:30 at Salem State College- central campus parking lot **off Loring Avenue (Rt. 1A)** near the Salem Pathway which will lead riders to the Marblehead Pathway. The ride is about 14 miles and should be completed at about noon. Helmets are required. For more information contact Larry at 978-774-6630. This is a repeat of the ride held last Father's Day.

WISH LIST

- A coordinator for the new walking group.
- Volunteers to lead walks in their favorite part of town.
- Volunteers to help contact adjacent homeowners.
- Endicott Park day helpers.

THANK YOU TO:

- Matt Duggan for all the things he does.
- Ralph Ardoff, Charles Lincicum, and Matt Duggan for printing.
- Dick Parkinson for the donation of vegetation clearing tools (which someday we will need).
- Those who volunteered to 'decode' petition names and addresses.
- All those who helped contact town meeting members.
- Betsy Goodrich of RTC for her presentation at our meeting.
- All who are members of the Danvers Bi-Peds.