

# DANVERS BI-PEDS NEWS

Volume 3, Number 4, Winter, 2005



## FEBRUARY 7, AN IMPORTANT DATE?

Just as the newsletter was being wrapped up, this news came in. The proposed rail trail will be an agenda item for the Feb. 7th meeting of the Board of Selectmen. In the words of Chairman Ken Brown, "to discuss just how the Board wishes to proceed with this "charged" item." Be sure to come out to show your support. Check the BOS agenda, on line or call town hall, a few days prior to find out the time for the discussion.

Does this mean a vote will be taken?

## RIVERS, TRAILS & CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM GRANT

The Danvers Bi-Peds along with 7 communities to our north secured a grant from the National Park Service. For the next year, Steve Golden of the Northeast Region of the NPS will be working with the 8 communities to help them move toward getting a rail trail from Danvers to the New Hampshire border. Matt Duggan and Ingrid Barry attended the first meeting of the regional group, often referred to as the Border to Boston. The meeting was moderated by Steve Golden.

Towns represented at the first meeting were Salisbury, Newburyport, Boxford, Georgetown, Topsfield, Wenham, Danvers, Peabody, Wakefield, and Lynnfield. As each community gave a summary of where their town was in the rail trail process, it became clear that Danvers and Wenham are the only communities in which the Selectmen have not come out in favor even looking into the benefits of the trail. In Wenham, they only have a mile or so of rail bed and no one has brought the idea to them as yet. Several of the towns were represented by a Selectman. The Danvers representatives hope this situation will change for them. Perhaps, some day soon a Selectman will be among those representing Danvers.

## SELECTMEN'S RAIL TRAIL WORKSHOP

If you were among the supporters who came out that cold night of December 14 to show your support for the rail trail, we thank you. Five people from the Bi-Peds and five from the NIC, the opposition group, each had a few minutes to speak. The Selectmen then asked a few questions. There was no audience participation. Matt Duggan, Ralph Ardoff, Diane Langlais, and Jerry Klima did an excellent job of presenting facts and information on all aspects of rail trails, including crime, home  
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## PETITION IN SUPPORT OF THE RAIL TRAIL PRESENTED

In an effort to demonstrate support for the Bi-Peds proposal to construct a rail trail on the Newburyport Branch rail bed, the Bi-Peds circulated a petition during November and early December to gather citizen signatures. The petition drive was successful, not so much for how many signatures were gathered, but in getting more people to talk about the trail. Over 800 signatures were presented to the Selectmen at their meeting on January 17, 2006.

There was no specific goal set for how many signatures could be obtained in a given time. Had it been circulated during a warmer time of the year, no doubt more people would have had the time and opportunity to gather signatures. Thanks go to all those who gathered signatures from neighbors, condo residents, Rotary, Kiwanis, YMCA, health clubs, and other places to numerous to mention. A quick look through the signatures showed that many civic minded community leaders and residents adjacent to the railbed were signers.

Many of the signatures were obtained during five Saturday mornings in November and early December as members of the Bi-Peds gave out information and gathered signatures from a table set up in front of Western Cycle Shop at 22 Maple Street, Danvers. It was a fun activity for those who volunteered as the response was greatly in favor of the trail. The volunteers also learned how many people from outside of Danvers patronize the downtown area, many who expressed a desire to live here. The Bi-Ped board are always appreciative when people come forward to help out as they did during the petition drive.

Petitions were also placed in many businesses along Maple Street: Custom Cup, Martha's Bread Basket, Western Cycle, Supreme Roast beef, Goodies Ice Cream, and the Toy Store. All the merchants asked were very receptive. It did not seem necessary to approach each merchant. If it had been a contest for the most signatures, Supreme Roast beef would have won.

### Selectmen's Rail Trail Workshop - continued.

owner concerns, and funding options. Jerry Klima is a selectmen from Salisbury, a community about to sign a lease with the MBTA for a rail bed in their town. He also lived in Lexington for many years and is very familiar with what the trail offers that community. The Bi-Peds appreciated his input at the workshop. Ingrid Barry wrapped it up with a request to move forward.

The Selectmen invited phone call, letters, and/or e-mails from citizens to assist them in making their decision. **This is where each and everyone of you who are supporters of a rail trail for Danvers have an important job.** The opposition is scaring people with statements such as taxes will go up to build and maintain it which is false. Taxes go up now and they probably will in the future but it will not be because of the trail. Most of the trails in the state are built with federal money which, if it doesn't go to Danvers, it will go to some other community so why not Danvers. As for maintenance, most towns with trails don't have dollar amounts to show because it is insignificant and often a friends of the trail group does much of it. However, if people hear taxes up, they often don't take time to check whether it is true. **If you have not already done so, please contact the Selectmen, all five, and tell them how you feel.** If you are adjacent to the rail bed, be sure they know. Contact information can be found at [www.danvers.govoffice.com](http://www.danvers.govoffice.com). Click on Boards and Commissions. It can also be found in the front sections of the local phone books. It is important to act quickly.

As a follow up to the workshop, the Bi-Peds prepared a report giving the Selectmen a written form of the information presented on December 14. It also contained a list of contacts with various rail trail expertise who could who could be contacted for first hand information. Matt Duggan presented a copy to each Selectman and the town manager at their meeting on January 17, 2006.

## 501c3 NON PROFIT ORG. FILING

Making Danvers a safer place to walk and bike will cost some money and the Bi-Peds hope to be a fund raising organization to help cover those costs. With that goal, Matt Duggan is filing 501c3 papers to make the Bi-Peds a nonprofit organization. If anyone has experience in this area and would like to assist, please contact Matt Duggan or Ingrid Barry.

## NEXT BI-PEDS MEETING

**February 20, 2006** - Viewing of the latest Bi-Peds DCAT show, discussion of trail activities in the surrounding communities. 7:00 pm at the Carriage House in Endicott Park

**March 20, 2006** - Betsy Goodrich of Rails to Trails Conservancy will speak on winning over community support for trails. Held at the Carriage House at 7:00 pm.

## LOOK FOR CONDITIONS TO IMPROVE AT THE WENHAM/LOCUST STREET INTERSECTION

The spring, 2004 issue of the newsletter was the first time that improvements to the Wenham/Locust Street intersection were first mentioned. It may be about to become reality. It has been reported by David Lane that work will begin on the Wenham/Locust Street intersection, probably in the spring of 2006. Granite curbing and concrete sidewalks will wrap around the south side, the telephone pole island will be made smaller allowing for 2 lanes of traffic coming off of Wenham St. There will also be a turning lane for those coming off of Locust and turning left. A fog line will help to give bicycles a safer area in which to ride. Steps will be taken in front of the convenience store and Agway to keep cars from parking on the sidewalk area. It is disappointing that there will not be a sidewalk on the garage side of the street but we were told there is no room for one as the town does not own enough land on that side. Not a perfect solution but the intersection should be safer for everyone using it.

## CHECK OUT THE NEW MAP

Matt Duggan, Danvers Bi-Peds Vice President, has been busy using his computer skills. The Bi-Peds web site, [www.danversbipeds.org](http://www.danversbipeds.org), has a new map of the proposed trail, complete with pictures. He says it is still a work in progress. It looks good now but watch for it to get even better.

## E-MAIL NEWSLETTER

With the thought of saving money for work toward our goals and to make less work for some members, Bi-Peds will now send an e-mail notice to those with an e-mail address linking to the web site where the newsletter can be down loaded. If you received the e-mail version of this newsletter but would prefer to receive it by mail, please contact Ingrid Barry. **If anyone has received the newsletter in the mail but would not mind receiving it by e-mail, please send your address to [ibarry@danversbipeds.org](mailto:ibarry@danversbipeds.org).** It would be greatly appreciated and you will then also get important notices of meetings, etc. that come up between newsletter.

### 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)

# WELCOME TO ALL OUR NEW MEMBERS SINCE LATE JUNE, 2005

## ADULT

Suzanne DeStefano  
Barbara Surdam  
Richard & Kathleen Mello  
Ruth Curtis

## FAMILY

Stan Svensson  
Steve & Tina Dougal  
Robert Dion  
Lynne & Rich Hathaway  
John & Tanneke Streefkerk  
Ronald & Joan Chane  
Sally & Barry Robertson

## FAMILY

Scott & Brenda Ferris & family  
Tom Leonard

## SUPPORTIVE

Christine & Scott Holz

## PROPONENT

James & Cheryl Ward

## CORPORATE

Landry's Bicycles

## SPONSOR

Sugar Maple Trailside Inn,  
Craig Della Penna

**Increase our membership, ask your friends to join.**

## THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE RENEWED SINCE JULY NEWSLETTER

Margaret & John Bailey  
Larry & Jennifer Fliegelman  
Ralph & Martha Ardoff  
Ingrid & Tom Barry  
Keelin Dawe & family  
Alan & Ruth Shactman

Francine Flint  
Michael Neary  
Irene Slater  
Matthew Duggan  
Jonell Glass  
Lawrence Comeau

Christine Watson  
Larry Tormey  
Maxine Taymore  
Patricia Gagnon  
Arthur Johnson  
Lew Hathaway

## Renewal notice

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, now 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).**

## MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

One way that strong support for an idea is shown is by the size of membership in the organization promoting it. Many of you are receiving this newsletter as an invitation to join the Bi-Peds because you signed the rail trail support petition. 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 Ardoff 978-774-7123 Robert Farley 978-356-2183  
Donald Gates 978-774-4682 Keelin Dawe 978-750-4111  
Charles Lincicum 978-777-5574

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](http://www.danversbipers.org)**

## WANT TO EXPERIENCE LIFE BESIDE A RAIL TRAIL?

The Sugar Maple Inn, a trail side B & B in Florence MA, offers beautifully furnished rooms just feet from the local rail trail. They even have a couple bicycles to lend. Reasonably priced, close to Smith College and Northampton, you can enjoy the trail while enjoying the area. Call 413-585-8559 or go to [www.sugar-maple-inn.com](http://www.sugar-maple-inn.com) for more information.

Be sure to attend the March 20 meeting to hear guest speaker, Betsy Goodrich of Rail to Trails Convancy speak on winning over community support. Carriage House, Endicott Park, 7:00 pm. All are welcome.



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.

#### **SPRING TRACK WALKS**

Technically, walking on the MBTA tracks is trespassing but permission is being requested to hold hikes on the proposed rail trail area. If permission is granted, they will be held on Saturday, April 23 and April 30 with the rain date the week following each. The first will go from Rt. 114 to Maple Street. The second will go from Maple Street to the Wenham line. Leaving at 9:00, each will be about 4 miles if one goes round trip. The hikes are being held before the poison ivy grows up and the bees are out but the walking in some areas can be rough. They will be open to all who are up to those conditions. It should give people a clearer picture of what this trail has to offer for Danvers as they experience the connectivity of it first hand.

#### **SIDEWALK AWARENESS DAY**

It may seem far away but did you know that June is Great Outdoors Month. One should get outdoors every month but it is easier during the great weather of June. During the first week in June, the Bi-Peds, in conjunction with the Disability Commission are planning a Danvers Sidewalk Awareness Event. Susan Fletcher, Asst. Director of Planning and Human Services, is working with Ingrid Barry and Diane Langlais on planning this event. The purpose of it is to begin to draw attention to the homeowners responsibility for care of the sidewalks adjacent to their properties. Many sidewalks are in need of repair by the town which requires money but many are not safely passable because of the homeowner lack of information or neglect. It is hoped that this will be a fun family day and may lead to some type of annual event. The day will include walking, entertainment, raffles, and goodies. Participants will be asked to fill out a walkability check list as they make their way to the Library lawn.

**Anyone who would like to help with this event is asked to contact Ingrid Barry. Donations of raffles and nutritious snacks are also appreciated. Think ahead, act now before you forget.**

#### **WISH LIST**

- Assistance with 501c3 filing.
- Sidewalk awareness day planning help.
- Volunteers to 'decode' signatures and addresses from petitions in order to send them membership invitations.
- Volunteers who would like to set up and lead walking or biking outings.
- Printing of newsletters and misc. items.

#### **THANK YOU TO:**

- Eileen McClelland who has kept our web site running.
- Matt Duggan for attending so many area meetings, the map, etc.
- Charles Lincicum for creating the information brochure.
- Diane Langlais, Ralph Ardoff, Matt Duggan and Jerry Klima for help with the workshop.
- All those who helped to get petition signatures.
- Those who volunteered to 'decode' petition names and addresses.