

DANVERS BI-PEDS NEWS

Volume 7, Number 1, Winter, 2009



MBTA RAIL BED LEASE SIGNED

On June 3, 2008 the board of Selectmen approved the MBTA lease and directed town manager Wayne Marquis to sign it. After delays involving wording and various modifications, it finally arrive back on the town managers desk in early January with all the necessary signatures. So the 4.3 miles of rail bed stretching from the Peabody/Danvers line in the area of Brooksby Villiage and the Avalon Bay development clear across town to the area behind the Choate Farm Peach Orchard green space is now under the control of Danvers. The MBTA will no longer think you are trespassing if you walk on it but it will be awhile yet before that will be very comfortable in many areas. It is hoped that a pathway can soon be cleared through the briars and brush to allow for passive recreation.

BIKE RACKS ARE COMING

Bi-Peds members Charles Lincicum continues to push for the free bike racks available through the MAPC (Metropolitan Area Planning Council) Regional Bike Parking Program. Now into the third year, it is hoped that the town will order and install them in 2009.

HOLIDAY FESTIVAL

Once again the Danvers Bi-Peds had an information table in front of Western Cycle Shop for the annual Holiday Festival held the Saturday after Thanksgiving. It is always good to see and hear so much support for the proposed rail trail from the people as they walked by. Maxine Taymore, Matt Duggan, Laura Cilley, Lew Hathaway, Ingrid Barry, and Heidi Wallingford volunteered at the table. All were grateful for moderate temperatures compared to last year.

A POINT TO PONDER -

If one uses a multi use pathway as a way to get to work, is it a transportation or a recreation way?

If one uses a roadway to drive a car to the beach or the movie, is it for transportation or recreation?

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE BI-PEDS MET WITH THE TOWN MANAGER

The word 'Committee' means different things to different people. When the Selectmen approved the lease signing in June, there was talk of a committee. The exact nature of this committee and who appoints it led to confusion on the part of many. To clarify the situation and try to learn how the Bi-Peds can be helpful in getting the trail effort moving, they requested a meeting with the town manager.

On January 29 th, Bi-Peds members Ingrid and Tom Barry, Tom Leanord, and Michael Neary met with Wayne Marquis, Karen Nelson, head of the planning department, and David Mountain, head of the recreation department. Many topics were discussed. Yes, citizens can walk on the rail bed. Yes, Mr. Marquis will appoint a committee consisting of about 7 people which shall include someone from the planning and recreation departments, perhaps a representative from the open space committee, and several citizens who have expressed an interest in serving. He will try to make the appointments by the end of February. Details about when and what volunteers can do (such as clearing brush) were to be decided by the committee. The Bi-Peds look forward to working closely with this committee.

June 6 is National Trails Day. It is the hope of the Bi-Peds that the trail can be cleared sufficiently by then to lead a walk on it as a way to introduce Danvers residents to the newest open space.

DO YOU HAVE ANY RAIL TRAIL PHOTOS TO SHARE?

Do you have a rail trail story you would like to share either in the newsletter or at one of the monthly meetings? Contact Ingrid Barry at ibarry@danversbipeds.org or call 978-774-8159. Bring your photos on CD's or DVD to a Bi-Peds meeting. It is always fun to dream about what a finished trail in Danvers will be like and sometimes the photos may show things to avoid in planning the trail for Danvers.

MASSACHUSETTS BICYCLIST SAFETY BILL SIGNED INTO LAW

The Massachusetts Bicyclist Safety Bill is law after 8 years and 4 legislative sessions. [MassBike](#) played a central role throughout the history of the bill, from drafting the language, to lobbying for its passage, to the successful 2006 effort that ended in a veto, and now to a law. Among the many changes the new law makes, it adds police training on bicycle law and dangerous behavior by bicyclists and motorists. Enforcement will be in place for police to write tickets to bicyclists for violating traffic laws which will be the same throughout the state. The law applies to minors as well and also contains many rules which apply to the behavior of motorists. The intent is to make the roadways safer for all users.

Taken from the Centerlines newsletter put out by the National Center for Bicycling & Walking -

CONSUMER REPORTS RISK SURVEY

A recent [Consumer Reports](#) survey reveals risky behavior and the chances Americans take. For example, 58 percent of American cyclists never wear a bicycle helmet. The results are revealing because this behavior can cause real harm, according to safety experts at Consumer Reports and elsewhere. 92 percent of bicyclists killed in 2007 reportedly weren't wearing a helmet, according to the [Insurance Institute for Highway Safety](#), which notes that helmet use has been estimated to reduce risk of head injury by 85 percent.



LONDON (UK) CYCLING SAFER WITH MORE CYCLISTS

"There is plenty of evidence showing that cycling gets safer the more cyclists there are. In London there has been a 91% increase in cycle use on the capital's main roads since 2000, and a 33% reduction in cycle casualties in roughly the same period."

**SPRING IS COMING! BE SURE TO CHECK THE
CONDITION OF YOUR SIDEWALK.
IS IT CLEAR FOR 5' ACROSS AND 8' UP?
IF NOT, IT'S TIME TO GET OUT THE GARDEN
TOOLS.**

BORDER TO BOSTON UPDATE

Mass Highway has contracted with the firm of Fay, Spofford, and Thorndike, Inc. to start the first phase of design work (the 25% design) on the Border to Boston Trail going from Salisbury to Danvers. Originally set to stop at Maple St. in Danvers due to circumstances with the rail road at the beginning of the project several years ago, the town manager has sent a letter requesting that it extend to the Peabody town line. Most of the funding for this phase is coming from funds secured by Rep. Tierney a few years ago. No town funds are being used on this contract. It is a start on the long road ahead.

Essex National Heritage, www.essexheritage.org, has done the paper work and submitted the Border To Boston Trail for consideration of funds through the stimulus package currently making its way through Congress.



BOSTON (MA) SHOVELING ENFORCERS NEWLY ARMED

As we all wait for the hazards of winter sidewalks to clear, perhaps enforcing the ordinances already on the books would be a good idea. If one lived in Boston, that is the case. According to a Jan. 16th Globe article, "The black-and-white thumbnails can be grainy, but the city hopes that the pictures of ice-crusts, snow-packed sidewalks send a clear message: Weaseling out of a \$50 fine for not shoveling has gotten a lot harder.

"Code inspectors have taken to the streets this winter with a new weapon, palm-size computers with touch screens that snap photographs of treacherous patches of ice, snow, and slush. Thumbnail images are stamped on tickets and printed instantly with a wireless 32-ounce printer slung over an officer's shoulder like a purse.

"Officials hope the immediacy of the photographs will act as a deterrent, reducing the number of slick sidewalks that twist ankles, flare tempers, and force some pedestrians to walk in the street, which can be dangerous. When property owners find a green envelope for a code violation stuffed under their doors, they are staring at evidence they will have to explain if they plan to appeal..."

Source: <http://tinyurl.com/76c3za>

**THE DANVERS BI-PEDS WISH TO WELCOME
ALL OUR NEW MEMBERS AND THANK ALL WHO
HAVE RENEWED.**

(Not sure if you have renewed?)

Check with Larry Tormey, 978-774-6630 or
ltormey@danversbipeds.org. He'd love to hear from you.)

**IF YOUR NAME APPEARS IN THE LIST BELOW,
THE BI-PEDS THANK YOU.**

**IF YOUR NAME DOES NOT APPEAR IN THE LIST
BELOW, EITHER YOUR DUES ARE PAST DUE OR
WE WAIT TO WELCOME YOU AS A NEW
MEMBER. SEE THE FORM TO THE RIGHT.**

Allan, Syd
Ardiff, Ralph E., Jr./Martha
Arsenault, Francis J. (Frank)
Bailey, Margaret & John
Barry, Ingrid & Tom
Bennett, Daniel
Bowden, Mike & Linda
Brady, Mr. & Mrs. William
Bruenjes, Ed
Cameron, Katherine E.
Carlin, Katey M.
Cignetti, Linda (& Bob)
Cilley, Laura
Comeau, Lawrence A./Alice M.
Corson, Eleanor
Cotter, Steven & Andrea
Cunningham, Maria
Dawe, Keelin C. & Family.
Della Penna, Craig
Dion, Ernest & Debra
Dolan, June & Bill
Dupont, Lorraine
Farley, Robert D
Fazio, Joe & Irene
Ferris, Scott & Brenda & family
Fliegelman, Larry & Jennifer
Fraizer, John & Shirley
Gamer, Anne & Robert
Gates, Donald E. & Paula
Glass, Jonell D./Johnson, Arthur
Gordon, Mitch
Harriss, John & Eileen
Hathaway, Lew & Marge
Hersey, Eleanor & Ken-
SunsetAcresLLC

Holz, Christina & Scott
Jervah, Bettie W.
Kelly, Mary J.
Kidney, Michael & Lori
Kilborn, Rebecca
Le Vasseur, Albert & Margaret
Leonard, Thomas & Marjorie
Linicum, Charles & Judith
Maddocks, Peter M.
Mercier, Roberta
Michaud, Audrey & Roger
Mooney, Paul W.
Murphy, Tim & Cindy
Neary, Michael(Neary Welding)
Newhall, Ralph & Donna
Noring, Richard & Rena
O'Loughlin, Brian
Parkinson, Richard Y.
Parsons, Gregory
Reich, Michael & Family
Slater, Irene K.
Steadman, Willard & Rita
Steelman, Bill
Streefkerk, John & Tannekehn &
Tanneke
Svensson, Stanley E.
Taymore, Maxine
Tiplady, Jon
Tormey, Lawrence P. (Larry)
Tosches, Albert M. & Donna
Townley, David & Joan
Triant, William & Gail
Tyrrell, Frank Jr.
Watson, Christine
Weir, William C.(Bill)
Western Cycle
Younger, Joseph & Barbara

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

Name

Address

Phone.....

E-mail.....

(Please print clearly)

\$250 Corporate Sustaining

\$200 Corporate Proponent

\$150 Corporate Supportive

\$100 Corporate
Individuals and families

\$100 Sustaining

\$50 Proponent

\$35 Supportive

\$20 Family

\$10 Adult

\$5 Youth (under 18)

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

Danvers Bi-Peds Members

President:	Ingrid Barry	978-774-8159
Vice President:	Matt Duggan	978-777-1884
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Treasurer:	Peter Maddocks	978-762-3701
Membership Chairman:	Larry Tormey	978-774-6630
Board of Directors:		
Lewis Hathway	978-774-5848	
Laura Cilley	978-777-4661	
Charles Lincicum	978-777-5574	
Lorraine Dupont	978-774-1723	
Steven Cotter	978-750-0532	

Up Coming meetings – February 9, 2009 – 7 – 9:00 pm - Regular monthly board meeting at the Carriage House in Endicott Park. All are welcome to attend. Topics will include a report on our fall fund raiser plans and on a recent meeting with the town manager concerning moving forward on the rail trail.

March 9, 2009 - 7- 9:00 pm - Regular monthly board meeting,same location. All are welcome to attend.



**3 Riding Club Road
Danvers, MA 01923**

DO YOU HAVE A BIKING OR WALKING CONCERN OR SUGGEST?

Please let us know about it. Call any board member.

Together we may be able to work on it.

Town Hall Contact Information

Selectmen

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WISH LIST

1. Parents to volunteer to bring Walk to School Day to Danvers.

October is International Walk to School Month. In the USA, more communities than ever before participated in Walk to School Day on October 8, and events can continue throughout October.

Parents of elementary school age children who would like to work together to introduce 'Walk to School Day' in Danvers should call Ingrid Barry at 978-774-1859. Visit www.walktoschool.org/getstarted/index.cfm for more information.

Wouldn't it be great to see children being escorted to school in groups of 'walking school buses' instead of lines of cars idling outside the building? Studies have shown that walking to school can enhance the health of kids, improve air quality and the environment, and lead to safer routes to school. Please volunteer to help bring this idea to Danvers.

2. Printing of the newsletter.

Up to 4 times a year Bi-Peds sends out a newsletter to those who don't have e-mail. Is there anyone who would like to volunteer to print about 50 copies each issue?