

# DANVERS BI-PEDS NEWS

Volume 3, Number 1, Spring, 2005



**It's letter writing time. See details below.**

## Bi-Peds request taken under advisement by the Board of Selectmen

There was a great show of support on January 18th when the Bi-Peds asked the Board of Selectmen to request a lease on the Newburyport Branch rail right of way. Our wish to fill the meeting room with supporters was granted. The lease would be a 99 years lease for basically no cost to the town. It is the first step required before funding can be applied for to construct a recreational pathway on it. If we had planned who was to speak at the meeting, it could not have gone as well as just letting who ever felt they wanted to contribute get up and do so. Everyone spoke on a different aspect and spoke well. When Catherine Franklin got up and asked to introduce her 9 year old son who wished to speak, it was a great conclusion. Thanks to everyone who attended on that cold night.

And what was the outcome? As of this writing, the latest word from town hall on March 24th was "Town Counsel is currently reviewing MBTA leasing rights. We can't give you anything more definitive until we have some word from his office. We will advise as soon as that happens."

And so we wait but we urge all of you not to wait quietly. Get your pens out and write letters. Keep them short. Just let people know why you feel a rail trail would be a benefit to the quality of life in Danvers

Write *Letters to the Editor* to the newspapers. The Salem News can be reached by e-mail at [sn@ecnnews.com](mailto:sn@ecnnews.com), the Danvers Herald at [danvers@cnc.com](mailto:danvers@cnc.com) and. By regular mail; Salem News, 32 Dunham Rd, Beverly, MA 01915. The Danvers Herald, 72 Cherry Hill Dr, Beverly, MA 01915.

Phone or write to the Selectmen and the town manager. If we remain silent, they may forget about our request. All the contact information is available on line at [www.danvers.govoffice.com](http://www.danvers.govoffice.com) or in the front section of the Danvers Community Phonebook.

**Remember: Short letters get read and read letters get remembered. If we are to succeed, our thoughts must be known.**

## Everyone deserves a mini one day bike vacation

Join the Danvers Bi-Peds on April 30 for a mini one day biking vacation while learning about how rails become trails. This all day tour will take in the right-of-way of 4 different former railroads in the Northampton, MA area. It will cover 25 miles with mapping for additional miles available. The leisurely ride will be narrated by Craig DellaPenna, a sought after motivational speaker on the subject of rail trails and smart growth/alternative transportation.

Scheduled for April 30, 2005, this 25 mile ride is suitable for ages 12 and up. Riders will meet at the Maple Sugar Trail Side B&B in Northampton at 10:00 am. Northampton offers many fine restaurants for the planned lunch break. **There is no fee but registration is required.** For more information about this fun and informative day, contact Ingrid Barry at 978-774-8159 or [tlb.mib@verizon.net](mailto:tlb.mib@verizon.net). Information can also be obtained on the web at [www.danversbipeds.org](http://www.danversbipeds.org).

## Check out the Library rail trail display

During the month of April, the Bi-Peds have a display in the lobby of the library. Geared toward telling people what and where rail trails are, it offers a great deal of information. **You can help in this education effort by volunteering an hour or so of your time to be in the lobby to answer any questions during peak library usage times. Call 978-774-8159 or e-mail [tlb.mib@verizon.net](mailto:tlb.mib@verizon.net) if you can help out.**

Thanks go to Charles Lincicum, Matt Duggan, and Craig DellaPenna for their help and support in putting the display together.

**Annual meeting  
May 23, 2005  
Details on page 2**

## The year in review:

Last February the Danvers Bi-Peds sent information to abutters of some of the abandoned rail beds in town in an attempt to gauge their opinions on rail trails in town. It was a start but only 11% cared enough to send back the stamped self addressed postcard. We appreciated the replies we did get and were pleased to see a large majority thought favorably about the idea.

The Bi-Peds had a table at Endicott Park day last June telling more citizens about the goals of the group. A video, **A Walk on the Powow Riverwalk**, was produced with the help of Larry Tormey working through the DCAT studio. To make it, Debra Carey of the Amesbury planing office spent a considerable amount of time telling us about their trail. The video appeared many times on the Danvers Cable Network. Anyone who has not seen it and is interested in watching it, can contact Ingrid Barry.

In an effort to make our town sidewalks safer for the disabled and even the able bodied, we were asked by the Disability Committee to help them by reporting bad sidewalk situations. A few of you did reply and those replies were sent on to the proper person. This is an on going project. Do not expect to see results soon but gradually, over the years, hopefully things will improve.

The issue of safety at the Wenham/ Locust Street intersection was brought to the attention of David Lane, Operations Manager of the DPW. Nothing on that front yet either. On January 18th, the Bi-Peds were on the agenda of the Board of Selectmen to ask them to begin negotiations with the MBTA for a lease on the Newburyport Rail Branch. They took it under advisement. See more on this on page 1.

On the fun side, several members participated in the Lobster Roll Ride on September 12 led by Steve Winslow of Bike To the Sea. Our own Bob Farley led a group on a 10 mile history ride around town on September 26 as part of Essex National Heritage Commissions Trails and Sails week end. Both events enjoyed great weather.

The Bi-Peds have moved forward on the business end. Our brochure was redesigned by Raphael Brickman, Alison Bruenjes set up our web site and it is being maintained by Eileen McClelland. Diane Langlais says we are now incorporated. And your membership card will get you discounts at Landry's Bicycles and Western Cycle.

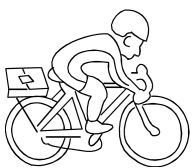
As the Danvers Bi-Peds enters it's fourth year, it is hoped that more meaningful things will begin to happen but it will take the support of many people. Change does not come easily.

## HELP NEEDED, SEE BELOW Bumper Stickers

We are looking for a graphic artist to help create a bumper sticker which will give people a chance to show their support for rail trails in town. Following that, we would like someone to contribute the printing or funds for printing. Contact Ingrid Barry at 978-774-8159 or e-mail [tlb.mib@verizon.net](mailto:tlb.mib@verizon.net) if you can help out.

### Endicott Park Day :

Once again Danvers Bi-Peds will have a table at Endicott Park Day on June 26, 2005. Volunteers are needed to set up and 'man' the table that day. All you have to have is a desire to get better walking and biking conditions in Danvers. The day runs from 11:00 to 3:00. Call 978-774-8159 or e-mail [tlb.mib@verizon.net](mailto:tlb.mib@verizon.net) if you can help out for all or part of the day.



Be a messenger for safer biking and walking conditions in Danvers. Call the policy makers, write letters, talk to your neighbors-let your voice be heard.

## ANNUAL MEETING

**Plan to attend the Annual Meeting May 23, 2005  
7:00 to 9:00 pm in the Community Room of the Danvers Bank located in the rear of 16-28 High St.**

There will be a brief business meeting at the start to hold election of officers for the coming year.

That will be followed by the featured speaker, Josh Lehman, the State Bicycle-Pedestrian Program Manager. In addition to explaining the various aspects of his job; he will talk on what is involved in converting abandoned rail-road right-of-ways to shared-use paths, what steps are required by the community, how possible contamination is dealt with, and how the state and federal money may be accessed. There will be time for questions after the presentation.

# THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE RENEWED SINCE THE LAST NEWSLETTER

Miller, Sean & Julia  
Langlais, Diane  
Wenis, Stephan A.  
Carlin, Katey M.  
Gray, R.Craig  
Noring, Richard & Rena  
Paskowski, John

Flint, Francine  
Glass, Jonell D./Johnson, Arthur  
Taymore, Maxine  
Watson, Christine  
Tormey, Lawrence P. (Larry)  
Barry, Ingrid & Tom  
Duggan, Matthew

## 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 or Western Cycle.**

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



### CHECK OUT THESE INFORMATIVE WEB SITES

www.danversbipeds.org      www.railtrails.org  
www.bikeleague.org      www.massbike.org  
www.americawalk.org      www.bikewalk.org

**www.danversbipeds.org**

### Danvers Bi-Peds Board Members

**President:** Ingrid Barry 978-774-8159  
**Vice President:** Keelin Dawe 978-750-4111  
**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  
Tom Barry 978-774-8159  
Donald Gates 978-774-4682  
Larry Tormey 978-774-6630

# 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**

**Don't forget, your membership card saves you  
money on all purchases except bicycles at:**

**Landry's Bicycles**, 151 Endicott St, Danvers,  
or www.Landrys.com, 978-774-3337

**Western Cycle** 22 Maple St, Danvers,  
or www.western-cycle.com, 978-774-1685

The Bi-Peds would like more members and they would like more business. Spread the word, get others to join. And if your dues are due, Larry Tormey has sent you a reminder.

**Please don't forget to renew.**

The Nominating Committee to draw up the slate of officers to be elected at the annual meeting is currently at work. Call Matt Duggan at 978-777-1884 to volunteer.



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.

**Lennie Mercier**, long time director of the Danvers YMCA, at the January 18th Board of Selectmen's meeting spoke concerning the Amesbury, MA rail trail.

"I live in Amesbury, my wife and I walk it a lot. From a teen, vandalism type of area - that particular area where the rail bed is was a major problem for kids hanging out prior to turning it into a walking area. That all went away because you'll find it then becomes a family area, they bring kids, parents, grandparents and they walk as groups."

Photo courtesy of Craig DellaPenna



Living life along a rail trail in Florence, MA.

## UPCOMING BI-PEDS ACTIVITIES MARK YOU CALENDARS

**April 1 to 30** -

Rail trail display in the lobby the Peabody Institute Library in Danvers.

**April 30, 2005** -

Mini One Day Bike Vacation on Northampton area rail trails. See page 1 for details.

**May 15, 2005** -

Before the Poison Ivy Walk. For details, call 978-774-8159 or e-mail [tlb.mib@verizon.net](mailto:tlb.mib@verizon.net)

**May 22, 2005** -

Sunday morning ride on the Salem/Marblehead rail trail led by Larry Tormey. Check the web site or call 978-774-8159 for details

**May 23, 2005** - 7:00 pm.

Annual Meeting with Josh Lehman speaking.

**June 26, 2005** -

Endicott Park Day information table.