



Spokes

Newsletter of Bike to the Sea

Winner of the 2006 Freedom Foundation George Washington Medal

Working for Bike Safety and Safe Places to Ride

Promoting the development of *The Northern Strand Community Trail*

A bicycle and pedestrian trail through the communities of
Everett - Malden - Revere - Saugus - Lynn

www.biketothesea.com

March- April 2007

B2C President: Steve Winslow

Board members: Naomi Brave, Gus Fish, Janet Green, Clay Larsen, Gail Palladino, Chris Santillo, Sharon Santillo, Eden Smith, Helen Weitz.

Spokes edited by Clay Larsen

Global Warming “Brunch and Learn” Sunday April 29th. Get ready for Earth Day and kick off a great season of path building projects!

Bike to the Sea and First Parish Church of Malden would like to invite you to a “Brunch and learn” on Sunday, April 29th from 11:30-2:00 at the First Church, Elm Street Malden. Come learn about the issues and science of global warming and what you can do locally to help face this global challenge. Bike to the Sea is also kicking off a great season of trail building. With the clearing away of many of the legal hurdles (see Spokes Feb. 2007) we have been working on for so many years. We have finally entered a new phase in our trail building efforts. **We even hope to build a portion of the trail in Everett this summer!** Come learn more and join us for a day of spirit, community and science. Stay for all or part of the day. Hope to see you there. More info inside.

Editorial: by Clay Larsen

Global Warming is in the Air

As I sit in a local coffee shop and write this article, Al Gore is getting ready to make a presentation to congress about

global warming. Ed Markey, our local congressman, has just appointed a top staff member to a congressional committee on

the subject. Recently a group of leaders from a number of major U.S. corporations met with President George W. Bush to urge him to develop a uniform national policy. General Electric is developing a marketing campaign called Ecomagination. Even Home Depot and Wall-Mart are jumping on the green bandwagon. Al Gore's award winning movie has finally brought the issue into mainstream consciousness.

When you see the movie *An Inconvenient Truth*, on the marquee at the mall you know the issue of global warming has gone mainstream. While it remains to be seen if this is just talk or actually a serious transforming effort, it is clear that we have reached a turning point in this country. Global warming is on the national agenda.

I look forward to this national debate. I would argue that facing up to the

challenge of global warming, as a country will make us stronger and more resilient. No matter what your political strip, we all know that our dependence on foreign oil is fraught with problems. Developing an economy that is based on conservation with more diverse forms of energy, such as wind, solar and bio fuels and with more transportation options will make us stronger.

Building an infrastructure of rail trails, such as the Northern Strand Community trail is not a luxury, it is an investment in our energy independence and a concrete way to fight global warming. What if gas prices shot up to \$5.00 a gallon but you did not care because your kids were biking to school and you were commuting to work, buying groceries and staying in shape on a beautiful bike path?



Bike to the Sea hires Clay R. Larsen as Executive Director:

Let me introduce myself. I have met many of you on Bike to the Sea day. I'm the one usually pulling a trailer behind my bicycle with the big Bike to the Sea sign. With all the new work to be done on the path, the board of directors saw fit to hire a part time executive director. I greatly look forward to the challenge and feel lucky to be available to work on the path project as it enters this exciting new phase.

I bring more than twenty years experience working as a project manager in the construction industry and about five years experience working as an environmental advocate. I look forward to building connections with other community groups with similar interests to

improve the quality of life for the citizens of the Everett, Malden, Revere, Saugus and Lynn.

All though I will try to work with all towns equally to promote the path my number one priority will be to get the section in Everett started. The city of Everett has given us the biggest commitment to move ahead and we feel that once we build one part of the trail the rest will fall into place quickly. I will be just a small part of the overall effort. We need the involvement of all our members now as we move closer to actually putting a shovel in the ground and building this trail. I look forward to seeing you on Bike to the Sea day.

Clay Larsen

Ed Markey House Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming:

Press release by Virus Aiyer. From Senator Markey web page.

Washington, DC -- Rep. Edward Markey (D-MA), today announced the appointment of David Moulton to be his Staff Director of the new House Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming.

“I am proud to appoint David Moulton to this position, where he will be responsible for organizing and running this new committee and assisting all the members in ensuring that the Select Committee fulfills its mission,” said Rep. Markey, who was named chairman of this new panel by Speaker Pelosi following the passage of legislation authorizing the committee by a vote of 269-150 on Thursday.

David Moulton, a graduate of Harvard University and Georgetown University Law Center, brings to the Committee 30 years of experience as a congressional aide, staff director, and energy efficiency advocate. While serving on the Joint Economic Committee for Senator Kennedy in the late 1970s, he authored a plan to pursue an aggressive energy efficiency strategy as a substitute for President Carter’s proposed \$88 billion Synfuels program. As Policy Director for the Energy Conservation Coalition in the early 1980s, he helped save the Weatherization Program, the Schools and Hospitals program, and the State and Local Energy Efficiency Grants programs from President Reagan’s attempt to eliminate or severely curtail all federal funding for

these key energy conservation efforts. He has served as Counsel to the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Conservation and Power, as Staff Director and Counsel to the Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Telecommunications and Finance, and as Legislative Director and then Chief of Staff to Rep. Markey, where he helped negotiate the addition of energy efficiency credits to the Clean Air Act cap-and-trade system to reduce acid rain, and the Appliance Efficiency Act amendments which have dramatically reduced the need for hundreds of large carbon-emitting or nuclear power plants. A native of Concord, Massachusetts, he now lives in Bethesda, Maryland. He is married with two children. __“The challenges of reducing our burning of carbon-emitting fuels and reducing our dependence on foreign oil are immense,” Moulton noted, “but so are the opportunities to steer in new directions that are technologically and economically smart. I am honored to be part of fulfilling Speaker Pelosi’s and Chairman Markey’s vision for this important committee.” __The 15 Member non-legislative panel is charged with investigating the twin issues of energy security and the warming of the planet from man-made sources of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gasses, and providing recommendations and reports to the Congress on strategies for mitigating these debilitating crises



Bike to the Sea strongly supports efforts to revitalize the Mystic River particularly the lower portion near the confluence of the Malden and Mystic River at the Amelia Earhart dam. This will be the future link between the Northern Strand Trail, trails along the Mystic River and connections to downtown Boston and the Charles River's trail system. This effort truly has regional significance and deserves attention at the highest levels of state government. The following article reprinted from the Boston Globe reviews those efforts. Also included is a recent bill being brought to the state legislature. We look forward to working with Senator Jarrett Barrios and other advocates of this important effort.

Revival for Neglected Riverside

Reprinted from the The Boston Globe

Ron DePasquale

Now that new residents are breathing life into the lower Mystic River waterfront, a push is on to boost public access and burnish the green spaces along the once-forgotten river.

The drive is modeled on the Charles River Conservancy, which spearheaded that riverfront's revival. State Senator Jarrett Barrios, a Democrat who represents much of the lower Mystic basin, has pulled together the advocacy groups along the waterway and plans a Sept. 6 caucus of the area's legislators.

"As the area grows increasingly dense, people are thinking differently about the river, and they want the amenities to be supported and enhanced," Barrios said. "We've seen how other communities and mayors, and neighborhood groups. The Department of Conservation and Recreation's Mystic River basin master plan has a budget of \$250,000, which advocates hope will increase.the Charles River Conservancy

leveraged public and private dollars to bring about the Charles River's renaissance. The lower Mystic's industrial shores need just this sort of advocacy."

The nearly continuous riverfront path from Everett to Boston envisioned by advocates "won't just happen," Barrios said. When attention is paid to the Mystic, he said, it's usually ``in fits and starts, and on bits and pieces."

The presence of industrial sites along the lower Mystic in Somerville, Charlestown, and East Boston complicates the riverfront's transformation. Kids who could be tempted to dive into a working port must be protected, said Vivien Li, executive director of the Boston Harbor Association, which represents the port's industrial users. More public access makes sense as the riverfront gentrifies, she said, but people can't expect continuous paths along dangerous industrial sites.

"If there's a harborwalk, people

assume it's safe," she said. "But if kids run out into harm's way, there could be a problem."

Waterfront businesses are organizing through the Mystic River Watershed Collaboration and are planning a meeting in October. It will be hosted by Tom Flatley at the Flatley Co.'s Schrafft Center in Charlestown, which is surrounded by a harborwalk and playing fields.

Securing green space along private property is easiest when properties change hands, Barrios said, which takes "good planning."

"For businesses that own property, we can tell them they'll increase their property's value by improving the waterfront," he said. "They need to view the river as a public amenity as opposed to something that's solely industrial."

Ivey St. John of the Charlestown Waterfront Coalition said the possibility of a nearly continuous path looks more realistic as the state Department of Conservation and Recreation studies two missing links in Somerville and

Charlestown. Both were part of a 2004 pollution settlement between the federal Environmental Protection Agency and the owner of the Mystic Station power plant in Everett. The state DCR will present the findings of feasibility studies in September.

In Somerville, pedestrian and bike paths over the Amelia Earhart Dam are being studied. Known as the Mystic Crossing, the paths would be paid for partly with money from the 2004 settlement. They would cut down the walk from Somerville to Everett from 3.5 miles to 900 feet, according to Walk Boston, the pedestrian organization. They would link Gateway Park, the Assembly Square development site, and Somerville's Draw 7 Park.

In Charlestown, the MBTA, which the EPA charged with excessive pollution in 2003, and the DCR are studying how to build paths along its bus maintenance facility. The T agreed to donate at least one acre of land, which would extend the riverfront path to Charlestown's Sullivan Square neighborhood and on to its harborwalks and the new Charles River parks.

**AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MYSTIC
RIVER
WATER QUALITY COMMISSION
HOUSE BILL 841**

**Lead House sponsor: Representative Denise Provost
Lead Senate sponsor: Senator Jarrett Barrios**

THE MYSTIC RIVER WATERSHED

The Mystic River watershed covers 76 sq. miles and includes all or parts of Arlington, Belmont, Burlington, Cambridge, Charlestown, Chelsea, East Boston, Everett, Lexington, Malden, Medford, Melrose, Reading, Revere, Somerville, Stoneham, Wakefield, Watertown, Wilmington, Winchester, Winthrop, and Woburn. Its water resources include the Mystic River itself, tributary rivers (the Aberjona River, Alewife Brook, Chelsea Creek, and the Malden River), numerous small streams, and many large and small lakes. The watershed is home to more than half a million people for whom the river could be a vital resource.

While the main stem of the Mystic is often clean enough for boating, and swimming is usually safe on Upper Mystic Lake, water quality throughout the basin suffers from urban runoff and industrial pollutants. Known pollutants include sewage and nutrients, especially in wet weather, and the levels of other pollutants have not yet been assessed. Sediments in many locations contain pollutants from the region's industrial past.

The Mystic has become the most urbanized river in the Commonwealth, and its cities and towns include some of the state's most densely populated environmental justice communities.

Most of the water bodies in the Mystic River watershed do not currently meet state water quality standards. A comprehensive strategy is needed to restore and protect this valuable urban resource.

KEY PROVISIONS OF THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION

- **Establishes the Mystic River Water Quality Commission:** The purpose of this special commission is to study the feasibility of bringing the water quality of the Mystic River to a level consistently safe enough for fishing, boating and swimming.
- **Investigation into Mystic River Water Quality:** The bill provides for the collection of new and existing data concerning the water quality of the Mystic River including: bacteria, viral, turbidity, clarity, water-borne sewage, toxins, water flow and flooding, sediment, and all other water quality and environmental parameters that may affect human exposure to water from the Mystic River.
- **Identification of Water Quality Improvement Methods:** The bill instructs the commission to identify technology and environmental and engineering solutions necessary to improve the water quality in the Mystic River, and to report the approximate cost of each proposed solution.
- **Designation of Possible Public Swimming and Boating Sites:** The commission would be charged with recommending potential areas along the Mystic River to develop for public swimming and boating, creating more recreational opportunities.



Volunteers needed for Bike to the Sea Day. If you would like to help out for an hour or all day please call we need ride marshals, people to man tables etc. Call Clay Larsen at 617-908-1022 to sign up.

Networking Notes

Mass Bike www.massbike.org
Northshore Cyclists www.nscyc.org
Winthrop Greenway www.friendsofbelleislemarsh.org/greenway
Friends of the Community Paths www.pathfriends.org
Malden Rotary Club www.maldenrotary.org
Mystic River Watershed Association www.mysticriver.org
Friends of the Everett Waterfront
Saugus River Watershed Council www.saugusriver.org
Friends of the Middlesex Fells www.fells.org
Friends of the Lynn Woods www.flw.org
Saugus Action Volunteers for the Environment www.saugus.org/SAVE/
Friends of Breakheart Reservation www.saugus.org/FOBR/
Rails to Trails <http://www.railtrails.org/>
Livable Streets <http://www.livablestreets.info>
JRA Cycles, Medford: <http://www.jracycles.com/>
Landry's Cycles, Boston: <http://www.landrys.com>
North Shore Cycle, Lynn: <http://nscycles.com/index.cfm>
Paramount Cycle, Somerville: <http://www.paramountbicycle.com/home.html>
Ace Wheelworks, Somerville: <http://www.wheelworks.com/>
Park Street Cycle, Somerville: <http://www.parksales.com/>
Broadway Bicycle School, Cambridge: <http://broadwaybicycleschool.com/>
City Cycle Incorporated, Stoneham (781) 438-0358



Upcoming Events

Sunday, April 29th: Brunch and learn First Parish Malden

Sunday, May 20th: Trail clean up day!

Sunday, June 10th: Bike to the Sea Day, meet at 9 am at the Dockside Restaurant, Malden. Volunteers need to help organize the event.

September 22-23: Weekend trip to Cape Cod Rail Trail

October 21st: Fall Colors Ride

BIKE TO THE SEA

83 Jacob Street
Malden, MA 02148



Address Sticker Here

Please give this to a friend or neighbor who might want to:

Join Bike to the Sea and Help support The Northern Strand Community Trail

_____ Individual (\$15)

_____ Supporting (\$50)
(receive a gift bike map)

_____ Family (\$20)

_____ Contributing (\$75)
(receive a gift t-shirt)

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Please make Checks payable to:

Bike to the Sea
c/o Gus Fish
57 Hammersmith Dr.
Saugus, MA 01906

