

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

May 2008

B2C President: Steve Winslow. Vice President: Janet Green

Board members: Naomi Brave, Gus Fish, Clay Larsen, Jennifer McAllister, Ginny Mullen, Gail Palladino, Chris Santillo, Sharon Santillo, Eden Smith, Karyl Stoia, Helen Weitz. Steve Winslow

Spokes edited by Naomi Brave



MBTA Approves Leases for Everett and Malden!!!

By Steve Winslow

After nearly 10 years of effort, the MBTA Board of Directors voted on May 1st to authorize the MBTA General Manager to execute leases with the Cities of Everett and Malden for the first section of the Northern Strand Community Trail.

Bike to the Sea President Stephen Winslow expressed thanks to the MBTA and to the members of Bike to the Sea for their long term support for this effort. "We appreciate the MBTA's willingness to work co-operatively with the Cities to resolve multiple planning and legal issues that needed to be addressed. We think this is a win-win situation for the Cities and the MBTA".

The cities benefit by improving a long neglected corridor and the MBTA will benefit from the new opportunities for transit connections the trail presents.

Wasting little time the Mayors with assistance from Bike to the Sea members Jennifer McAllister and Stephen Winslow immediately applied for state and federal fund "Transportation Enhancement" funds to complete the design and construction of the trail including the \$1.275 million in funds Congressman Markey secured for the project.

In 1998 the MBTA declined to lease the Saugus Branch while it studied possible options for extending the Blue Line to Lynn. After that study the MBTA selected another route for the Blue Line in 2004, further delays occurred during lease negotiations. Ultimately the Legislature passed three laws to address environmental and tort liability concerns.



B2C Sponsors Northern Strand Clean up on Nation Trails Day by Naomi Brave

24 Volunteers from Malden, Melrose, Everett, Somerville and Arlington joined together last Saturday, May 3rd on a chilly morning for a clean up the Maplewood, Malden section of the future Northern Strand Community trail. Clean up efforts began on the trail section behind the Salemwood School at 9:00 am, and by noon, 3 truckloads of debris were removed from the tracks going all the way up to Faulkner Street. Volunteers were in good spirits, and this section of the future trail is now a nice clean public corridor.



Trail before we began



Volunteers Reed Snyder, Bruce Marcus, Gus fish and Sunny Marcus



24 volunteers hauled 3 truckloads of trash off the proposed Northern Strand Community Trail. Bike to the Sea is planning to hold another clean up in the Lynn section of the proposed trail later this year.



Lynn Public Meeting and Design Discussion

By Clay Larsen

On March 25th 2008, Bike to the Sea held a Public Meeting and Design Discussion in the Lynn Housing Authorities community room at 10 Church St. Lynn. The meeting was intended to update Lynn city officials and the local community about recent progress in efforts to build the Northern Strand Community Trail.

The meeting was kicked off with the unveiling of B2C's new presentation graphics. The new graphic package included a Power Point presentation laying out the progress and scope of the trail. A new satellite map showing important landmarks and the trail's connections to other regional trail building efforts. It also included a design concept for a small park on a portion of the trail in Lynn. The design concept presents the potential for rebuilding and reenergizing this long abandon railroad right-of-way into a vibrant safe for children and families asset for the city.

Bike to the Sea board member Clay Larsen started off the meeting using the new graphics showing possible routes of the trail through Lynn and how the Northern Strand Community trail may interact with Lynn's water front master planning efforts. Steve Winslow continued the discussion answering questions and speaking to specific points about the MBTA lease arrangements and other technical issues involved in securing and preserving the right-of-way down which the trail will travel.

The meeting was well attended by officials from the City of Lynn including State Representative Steve Walsh, Public works Commissioner Jay Fink, and a representative from counselor Pete Capanos office. All of the city officials that attended stated their continued support for the trail but spoke soberly of current financial realities. A strong interest was expressed to work with Bike to the Sea to investigate lease arrangements for the railroad

right-of-way down which the path will travel. Steve Winslow expresses the willingness and interest of Bike to the Sea to work with the city of Lynn to secure grants and pursue the legal framework to move ahead with this important project. The meeting concluded with a very positive feeling about the goals and objective of the trail building effort. A sense of reality of the size of the task at hand was also present. Further meetings with local community leaders are being scheduled and a trail clean up day is being planned for later this year.

I hope that this meeting in Lynn will prove to be a kernel that builds towards the kind of success Bike to the Sea is having with the Everett and Malden section of the trail. The trail in Lynn is already being used by local neighborhood children, dog walkers, and commuters as an informal community trail. There is an opportunity for motivated people to jump-start the process by cleaning up the section of the trail in their neighborhood. Why not start a community vegetable or wild flower garden on the trail, or help organize funds to install a stone dust path like we did in Everett? We do not need to wait for federal and state money to build this trail. That money is needed but will be the icing on the cake. We feel that whether connected or not each section of the rail road right-of-way that is cleaned up, preserved for the future and converted from abandoned industrial land to vital community assets is progress in the right direction. If need be we will build the trail from each end towards the middle. If you want to start a community group to work on a section of the trail near your house that is neglected and abandoned speak to one of the board members and we will help you organize it.

(See drawing on next page)



Possible design solution for the proposed Lynn section of the Northern Strand Community trail



Bike to the Sea's Online Presence

by Chris Santillo

Bike to the Sea is working to increase our online presence. Our website, <http://www.biketothesea.com> is still the best place to go to learn more about the organization and learn about upcoming events. In addition, our email list is a great way to receive timely Bike to the Sea updates, contact the board and other members with questions and learn about local bike-related events and meetings.

You can join the Bike to the Sea email list either by visiting <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/bike-to-the-sea> and clicking on the "Join this group!" button or you can send an email to bike-to-the-sea-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

Other new initiatives include promoting our events on the email lists of other local and national biking and community organizations, listing our events in online event calendars and advertising for volunteers on VolunteerMatch.org. Finally, we have created a Google map that shows the first section of trail and the location of the new parks in Everett: <http://tinyurl.com/33jajt>.

If you have ideas of other ways we could increase the visibility of Bike to the Sea please send an email to Chris Santillo (csantillo@rocketmail.com).





Networking Notes

Mass Bike www.massbike.org
North shore 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

June 15th: Bike to the Sea Marshall's Ride
June 22nd: Bike to the Sea Day
September: Waterfront ride on Revere Beach or Winthrop
October: Fall colors ride
November 6th: Annual Meeting and Awards Night
November 28th: Malden Holiday Parade

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

