

## Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Committee notes

Date:	5/27/10		
Meeting start:	7:40 p.m.		
<b>In attendance:</b>			
Dave Atkins	Steve Olanoff	Michael Kraft	Dennis Cronin
Steve Harte	Virginia Lester	George Lester	Kela Klosi
Christian Donner			

### 1. Sharing of Maps

Steve Olanoff shared several maps from Walk Boston. These attractive maps neatly lay out walking areas for several towns, including Walpole. The maps were produced through an MPO grant. Steve also shared the official Boston Bike Map. Dave circulated maps produced by the town of Westwood which lay out walking routes in town.

Walk Boston- [www.walkboston.org](http://www.walkboston.org)

Boston Bike Map- [www.cityofboston.gov/bikes](http://www.cityofboston.gov/bikes)

### 2. Bay Colony Rail Trail Association presentation

Christian Donner, board member of the BCRTA, visited with us to present their work on a local Rails to Trails conversion. Christian is also a member of the Medfield Safety Committee. Seeing our notes on the Needham Bikes signs and maps, he shared that the President of the BCRTA, Ted Staley, founded Needham Bikes.

In an effort to preserve rail corridors for the future, the railroad companies agree to co-lease railways to Rails to Trails groups. The railway that his group is hoping to convert is a 7-mile stretch from Needham Junction to the Medfield Senior Center. This stretch represents Phase I of their project. They are looking to construct a multipurpose recreational trail. Phase II would consist of a stretch from Needham Heights to Newton and from Medfield to Millis.

Christian shared some facts about similar projects:

a rails to trails conversion creates a linear park

there are 103 active projects in Massachusetts

dozens of projects have been completed

typically it costs around \$100,000 per mile to complete the conversion

the fastest conversion in Massachusetts was 6 years

This project would consist of an unpaved surface which would allow Dover and Medfield residents to be connected to the Neeham Commuter Rail without having to drive. Presently the BCRTA project is in its feasibility study phase through the MPO. They hope to build at a pace of 0.5 mile per year, with a cost of \$3.5 million by 2016. Their website has extensive information on this project and others in Massachusetts: [www.baycolonytrail.org](http://www.baycolonytrail.org).

Christian also mentioned that Dave LaFreniere has mapped many trails in the Medfield area and posted his maps to [www.openstreetmap.org](http://www.openstreetmap.org). The website shows the breadth of Dave's work. For example, one route shows how to walk from Hinckley Pond in Medfield to Rocky Woods Reservation.

### **3. Bylaws**

We discussed the language used in our bylaws. A long discussion ensued over the use of the word Safety in our committee's name. Dave Atkins will send out an email clarifying this issue. He will also email the recommended changes to the bylaws for review.

### **4. Interim Positions**

We voted on interim positions for our committee. Dave Atkins was nominated and elected as Chair. Michael Kraft was nominated and elected as Vice Chair. Steve Harte was nominated and elected as Secretary.

### **5. MPO Update**

Steve Olanoff shared that our MPO grant application has been approved for 2012. Many projects submitted to the MPO were for larger dollar amounts. At a future meeting we may discuss the possibility of amending our proposal by adding 6-8 more sites to our curb bump-out/pedestrian flasher proposal. This would bring us closer to \$300,000 total for the project. This may make it more appealing to the MPO as they would incur similar study and design costs even if the project stayed at \$60,000.

Meeting adjourned at 10:10 p.m.

Next meeting is Thursday, June 24 at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Harte

**Additional updates and links of interest:**

- a. Clean Air Mobility Program presentation report - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u4oOI45RUtY>
- b. crosswalk paint/treatment demo - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oVCRyhIAreo>
- c. Virginia Lester: Albert's Story - <http://westcat.tv/movies/Virginia-Lester-Alberts-Story.html> (play/pause/play to watch)
- d. Needham Bikes - <http://needhambikes.ning.com/>
- e. emotionally-intelligent signs - <http://westwoodblog.org/content/signs-empathy>