



Spring 2007 Newsletter

Our mission is to promote bicycling and walking in West Windsor Township and neighboring communities emphasizing access, education, mobility, and safety.

Looking to walk or bicycle safely to the train station, to local schools, or your place of work? Interested in taking a hike on trails through beautifully preserved forests in town? Do you have an old bicycle that you'd rather donate than put in a landfill?

Welcome to the Spring 2007 newsletter of the West Windsor Bicycle and Pedestrian Alliance (WWBPA). The WWBPA is sponsoring a number of bicycle and pedestrian related events and is involved in many advocacy projects throughout our town. Please get involved; there are many ways to contribute to help make West Windsor Township a bicycle and pedestrian friendly community. If you are not a member and wish to become one, please see the membership page at the end of this newsletter.

Please note our new logo! It was designed by local graphic artist Ray Pelesko.

WWBPA Fast Facts:

Founded and incorporated as a private non-profit January 2006

Current membership: 116

Web Site: <http://www.princetononline.org/wwbpa>

Blog: <http://wwbpa.blogspot.com>

E-mail: wwbikeped@gmail.com

Address: P.O. Box 625, Princeton Junction, NJ 08550

Meetings: 2nd Thursday of each month, 7:30 p.m., West Windsor Municipal Building (Clarksville and N. Post Rd)

Next Meetings: April 12th, May 10th, June 14th

UPCOMING EVENTS

West Windsor Walks: April 17th

WWBPA's first educational walk of 2007 is on Tuesday, April 17th at 5:30 p.m. (rain date Tuesday, April 24th) to point out bicycle and pedestrian deficiencies along Canal Pointe Boulevard. Meet at Market Fair, outside the sidewalk entrance to the UA Movie Theatre on the Barnes and Noble side of the theatre.



National Bike to Work Week: May 14-18

We encourage everyone who can, to bicycle to work during this week and to send us the total miles you've biked. We will tally how many total miles members of our community bike commuted during this week on our blog.

BikeFest: May 26th

Join our community at the Fourth Annual BikeFest. The WWBPA does not organize this event, but a number of our members are on the organization committee and many of us volunteer at this great community bike event. Please visit the BikeFest Web site at:

www.wwparks-recreation.com/bike-fest.html.

Please volunteer to help if you can.

National Trail Day: June 2nd

Celebrate National Trail Day on Saturday June 2nd. Meet at the Millstone River Trail parking lot on Millstone Road at 1 p.m. We will walk on three miles of recreational trails through beautiful, preserved open space, including our newest trail on the Millstone Preserve.

Pedals for Progress Bike Drive: June 16th

The WWBPA is sponsoring a bike drive to collect used bikes to benefit Pedals for Progress. Anyone with an adult or child's bicycle in repairable condition is urged to donate it with a \$10 donation for shipping. Bikes can be dropped off from 9 a.m. to

12 noon, **Saturday**

June 16, RAIN OR

SHINE at the West

Windsor Community

Farmers' Market, on

Vaughn Drive of

Alexander Road in

the parking lot of

the Princeton Junction

Train Station. To volunteer to help with the

collection or find out more about donating a bike, please call Susan Conlon at (609) 936-1916 or Ken Carlson at (609) 275-6355.



pedals for progress™

Putting used bikes to good use

For complete details on all our events, visit our website, www.princetononline.org/wwbpa/

MEMBERSHIP

Annual Meeting:

At our first Annual Membership Meeting on February 8th we reviewed the activities of the organization from the last year, appointed student advisors, and elected new Trustees: eight of the current Trustees as well as WWBPA member Newell Benedict. We also set the goals for the WWBPA for the coming year. At the regular February meeting, the five officers of the Board were re-appointed to their positions. Please note our Annual Report is available on the WWBPA Web site.

Four Students appointed to the WWBPA Advisory Board in February:

Four students from West Windsor-Plainsboro schools were appointed to our Advisory Board at the Annual Meeting on February 8.



They are Kim Meersma, an 8th grade student at Thomas Grover Middle School; Mira Bhatia, junior, and Lauren Mandel, sophomore, at WW-P High School North; and Annemarie Strange, junior, WW-P High School South.

The students' role is to communicate the interests and

ADVOCACY

Bicycle and Pedestrian Projects in the West Windsor Township Capital Budget:

The WWBPA has been actively advocating to both Township officials and members of Township Council for increased funding for bicycle and pedestrian projects in the township. We have generated detailed project priorities for bike lane, sidewalk, and crosswalk projects that require significant funding. Our advocacy over the last few years has been successful, for example, resulting in the inclusion of funding for new sidewalk construction in the Township's Capital Budget. This year, the township Administration presented Township Council with the

concerns of youth in the community and involve local youth in organizing bicycle and pedestrian events throughout the year. The WWBPA welcomes these four young women to our advisory board and looks forward to their participation and input.

New Trustee - Newell Benedict:

Newell has lived in West Windsor for 29 years with his wife Barbara; their daughter is a senior at High School South. He is recently retired from the Middlesex County Board of Social Services where he served as Director of Personnel for 30 years. Newell has been volunteering in the township for over 20 years: on the Recreation Commission, Community Park Committee, Pool Committee and BikeFest Committee. Since retiring, he is an HR consultant and teaches Yoga. Newell is a long-time cycling enthusiast and for the past three years rode in the Anchor House Ride for Runaways.

Trustee Column by Susan Conlon

Our organization is entirely volunteer-based, from its beginning as the Mayor's Bicycle and Pedestrian Task Force to our current status as a not-for-profit organization. We take a grassroots approach to making positive change in our community. We decided to make a commitment to involve youth in our organization by reaching out to appoint teens to our advisory board so that they could share their perspectives and help to encourage youth in the community to get involved and volunteer for our events.

We have many opportunities for people of all ages to be involved, from helping out a day here or there with trail building, to participating in BikeFest and at our Pedals for Progress bike drive. You can also help by joining one of our committees: Education and Outreach, Event Planning, Fundraising, Membership, Maps, and Trails. Please consider getting involved; your participation is welcome. Send us an email: wwbikeped@gmail.com or call me at (609) 936-1916.

2007-2012 Capital Budget that included a sidewalk construction program funded at \$100,000 a year and a bike lane construction program funded at \$100,000 for 2007 and \$200,000 a year for 2008-2012. Recognizing the significant need for new sidewalks, Township Council members asked the Township Administration to increase the sidewalk program to \$200,000 a year. This is clearly great news for pedestrians in our town and we thank Township Council for their leadership on this issue. The WWBPA will be working with the Township Administration to continue to help set priorities for future bicycle and pedestrian projects. The West Windsor Township Web

site www.westwindsorj.org has a list of current and planned bicycle and pedestrian improvement projects (in the Projects Around Town section).

Update on Avalon Watch Crossing:

Good news! The NJDOT has approved the proposed pedestrian improvements at the Avalon Watch apartment complex and the Village Shoppes shopping center on Clarksville road and the County expects to implement the project this year. As we have pointed out during last year's advocacy campaign, this is a very dangerous pedestrian crossing. The improvements include a clearly marked and signed crosswalk, a pedestrian-activated signal, and a pedestrian refuge island.

DVRPC Study of Clarksville Road:

The Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission has selected Clarksville Road for one of two Traffic Calming Studies to be conducted in 2007. Ken Carlson sits on the Advisory Council for this study, which includes representatives of the township, county and state governments. The study will examine existing conditions and deficiencies along Clarksville Road from Meadow Road to Route 571 and will propose recommendations for traffic calming and improved bicycle and pedestrian mobility and safety. Please send us your suggestions or ideas for Clarksville Road through our e-mail address or our blog.

Princeton Junction Redevelopment:

The WWBPA continues to actively advocate for improved bicycle and pedestrian mobility and improved safety for cyclists and pedestrians in the vicinity of the Princeton Junction train station. We strongly urge our members to attend the Open House session at Hillier Architecture at 500 Alexander Park on Monday April 9th from 5-9 p.m. and also the final workshop on redevelopment on Thursday April 19th at 7 p.m.

Please speak up on bicycle and pedestrian issues, particularly on the establishment of bicycle and pedestrian connectivity to existing neighborhoods.

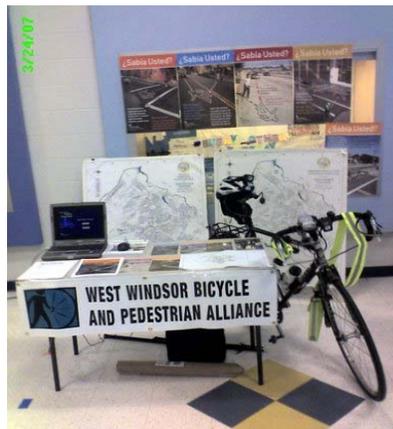
Trails:

On two Saturdays in March, volunteers welcomed spring by blazing new trails along the Millstone River. The diligent trail builders worked for several hours each day raking, chain sawing, and cutting back branches and brambles, creating the new trails. The trails offer lovely views of the Millstone River, a variety of trees, and pass through a Tolkienesque section of twisted vines and trees. The trails are located on preserved land that is bordered by Joanne Street, the Millstone River, Bear Brook, and the NE Corridor Rail line.



The preserved land is now part of the Millstone River Preserve. When one more parcel along Millstone Road is preserved, there will be continuous preserved land and trails along the Millstone River from Grovers Mill Pond to the train tracks. To access the trails, please park at the Millstone Preserve parking lot on Millstone Rd, and walk the short distance down Millstone Road to Joanne Street, and then to the end of Joanne Street.

EDUCATION



Outreach:

We continue to work with our friends in Hightstown to work out the logistics of our first Hispanic Outreach Program. The objective is to promote bicycle safety. Dr. David Avalos of the St. Anthony of Padua Church has generously offered to help coordinate this series. Chris Scherer staffed a booth on March 24 at the 8th Annual Community Health Fair & 5k Race at the Hightstown High School where we provided bilingual information about bicycle and pedestrian safety.

Bicycle/Pedestrian Map:

We have made significant progress in creating a bicycle and pedestrian map of West Windsor Township to provide safe routes, educational and safety information to residents, students and those in underserved communities (safety information will be printed in both English and Spanish). Township staff provided the 'layers' which identify bike lanes, sidewalks, trails, etc. Local cyclist Ben Tufford volunteered his engineering skills to produce the map. We are now adding relevant content to address NJ laws, rules of the road and important safety tips. The Greater Mercer Transportation Management Association and the BikeFest Organizing Committee have generously offered to donate funds to support the map, which is scheduled for release at the BikeFest on May 26 and will be made available to WWBPA members and local residents. As local conditions change, we will update the map and can always use volunteers to help with that effort. If you are interested, please email WWbikeped@gmail.com.

School Transportation Survey:

Our student advisors will us help design and implement a survey of how students travel to and from the schools in our school district: walking, biking, by school bus, or by car. The results will help in analysis of which routes need improvement to facilitate more walking or biking. We are also seeking additional volunteers (adults and teens) to help with this project.

WW-P High School Senior Scholarships:

WW-P High School seniors are eligible for a scholarship from the WWBPA. WW-P High School seniors (one from High School North and one from High School South) are eligible to apply for a \$100 cash scholarship from the WWBPA. Applicants must write a brief essay describing activities that they have undertaken that have helped promote biking and walking in our community and/or describing their vision for improved bicycle and pedestrian mobility and safety in our community. The application is on the WWBPA Web site.

TO JOIN THE WWBPA

Tax-deductible membership dues are:

- Student \$15.00
- Adult \$25.00
- Supporter \$50.00
- Benefactor \$100.00

Please make checks payable to WWBPA, Inc.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

I am interested in volunteering _____

I am a student and interested in community service projects _____

Board of Trustees:

- Ken Carlson - *President*
- Chris Scherer – *First Vice President*
- Susan Conlon – *Second Vice President*
- Meg Chicco - *Secretary*
- Sandy Shapiro – *Treasurer*
- Newell Benedict
- Bruce Ellsworth
- Daryl McMillan
- Alison Miller

Advisory Board

- Dan Gerstenhaber - *Chairman, West Windsor BikeFest*
 - Alan Hershey - *Chairman, NJ Trails Association*
 - Barry Keppard - *Transportation Planner*
 - Dr. Dinesh K. Singal, MD FACC - *Medical Consultant*
 - Giuliano Chicco - *Webmaster*
 - Mira Bhatia - *Student Advisor*
 - Lauren Mandel - *Student Advisor*
 - Kim Meersma - *Student Advisor*
 - Annmarie Strange - *Student Advisor*
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