



2012 Annual Report

Building a bicycle and pedestrian friendly community



President's Message

Thank you to all our members, volunteers, student advisors and trustees, West Windsor Township, and Mercer County for a great 2012!

Biking and walking is more popular than ever. During a September weekday evening, we counted 355 bicyclists and pedestrians around the train station, up 18% from last year.



Safety continues to be a major concern. This year, two West Windsor pedestrians were seriously injured after being struck by motorists. Please remind your family, friends, and neighbors to be alert, considerate, and respectful when behind the wheel, handlebars, or just walking or running along the road. Please wear bright and/or reflective clothing when biking or walking, and use lights at night.

Complete Streets policies will improve safety over time. Mercer County's new policy, which requires biking and walking accommodations when roadways are improved, complements our state and municipal policies, so we look forward to safe streets no matter whose roads we're on.

We need your help to build a bicycle and pedestrian friendly community. Please send us your thoughts and concerns, volunteer at the next learn-to-bike or trail-clearing event, write a letter to the editor, or even become a WWBPA trustee. We're all volunteers, so everybody's efforts are appreciated.

Don't forget to renew your WWBPA membership (or become a member!) and join us for a bike ride or walk.

Looking forward to a safe and fun 2013. Hope to see you biking or walking around town!

Jerry Foster, president

WWBPA Annual Meeting

**Thursday, March 14, 2013 at 7 p.m.
West Windsor Municipal Center**

Our guest speakers will discuss their biking and walking adventures. Share yours in the question-and-answer period!

Meet our new student advisors, and join the discussion of how to make our community more bicycle and pedestrian friendly.

We also will have door prizes, including a donated bike rack for a car.

**Interested in becoming a WWBPA trustee?
We have two openings.**

Email wwbikeped@gmail.com

Advocacy

What's a Road Diet?

A road diet is about slimming down a roadway to make it safer for all users, with only a minimal impact on the number of cars it can handle. This is done by narrowing or eliminating car lanes to make more room for bike lanes and, as needed, sidewalks. It adds a center turn lane for those making left turns, eliminating a major impediment to smooth traffic flow. These moves help calm traffic and reduce the number of speeding motorists, reducing the number of vehicle accidents—a win for everyone.

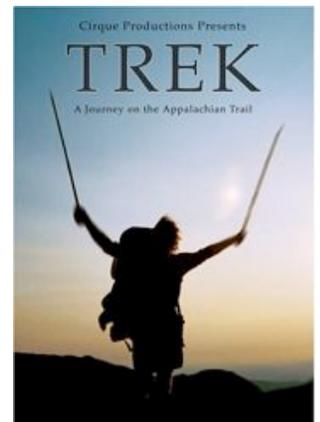
Road diets are suitable for roads that average up to 20,000 cars a day. That includes all roads in West Windsor except for U.S. 1 and parts of Route 571/Princeton-Hightstown Road.



West Windsor will be evaluating a road diet for Canal Pointe Boulevard this year as part of a planned repaving project that would be completed in 2014. The WWBPA has heard from many residents concerned about the speed of traffic on the roadway as well as from many who would like to bicycle from their homes there but feel it is unsafe. A nationally recognized firm has previously recommended a diet, and the WWBPA supports such a move.

Join Us for Movie Night on January 26!

Trek: A Journey on the Appalachian Trail is the story of four young men and the people they meet as they attempt to hike the 2,168 miles of the Appalachian Trail from Georgia to Maine. Spanning 14 states and five months, this critically-acclaimed film will inspire you to follow your own dreams, no matter what the odds.



cirquevideo.com/Trekpage.html

Join the WWBPA for the screening at the West Windsor Arts Center. Admission is free for current members and \$5 for others. All must come to the box office to get a ticket. Box office and doors open at 7 p.m.; the movie starts at 7:30 p.m. Refreshments and a discussion with others who have done long-distance rides will follow.

2012 Infrastructure Improvements

Penn Lyle Road now has bike lanes along the entire length, to High School South, improving the bikeability of this heavily traveled road in our community. Other improvements made the intersection at Clarksville Road safer for both pedestrians and motorists.



Bike lanes were added to the main road in Mercer County Park, replacing the gravel shoulder. This road is popular with bicyclists as well as motorists, and they previously had to share a very narrow lane.



Eight more lockers and four more bicycle racks were added at the Princeton Junction train station, and all are already full. This project was spearheaded by the WWBPA in collaboration with

West Windsor Township, West Windsor Parking Authority, West Windsor BikeFest, New Jersey Transit, and Greater Mercer Transportation Management Association, which also administers the locker rentals.

Sidewalks were installed along Route 1 between Nassau Park (home to Target, Wegman's, and other stores) and Windsor Green (Whole Foods and others), connecting Nassau Park to Canal Pointe and the rest of West Windsor for pedestrians (and bicyclists, we'd wager). The well-worn path through the grass was evidence that this was needed.

Community Service and Scholarship Awards



The WWBPA awarded two scholarships to graduating high school seniors: Paul Ligeti, of High School North, for his bike route along historic West Windsor sites; and Alice Eltveldt, of High School South, who led by example with her job at WaterWorks and biked to work.



Our community service awards went to Mike Viscardi, our fantastic contact at New Jersey Transit, without whose help we couldn't have added bike racks and lockers at the station; Michael Ogg, a former trustee, who raised our awareness of the needs of the disabled when making improvements to our sidewalk network; and West Windsor Township, for adding bike lanes, filling gaps in the sidewalk network, adding the safe pedestrian crossings during the past few years, and enabling West Windsor to achieve New Jersey's first bicycle-friendly community award.

Student Advisors

The WWBPA once again seeks student advisors interested in working to make our community even friendlier for bicyclists and pedestrians. Serving as a student advisor is an excellent way for students to make a difference in their community while developing organizational skills, helping to plan and publicize events, and learning to advocate for improvements before local government. Details are on our website, wwbpa.org. The deadline for applications is February 18.

WWBPA Trail Maintenance

Even before Hurricane Sandy hit West Windsor, a small group of WWBPA volunteers worked to maintain the trails in our open spaces by clearing downed trees and limbs to make walking, running, and biking accessible.



After Sandy, everything changed. A quick survey of the trails in the Rogers Arboretum, Rogers Preserve, Millstone Preserve, Millstone West, and Zaitz Woods indicated a huge amount of work would be

needed. The Township Public Works crews were overloaded with removing street debris, so the call went out to our membership and the public, and many responded.

With a large crew of volunteers of all ages, including a handful with chainsaw experience, we began tackling the trails, beginning with Rogers Preserve and the trail around the dog runs at Community Park. After that, about 20 volunteers cut and hauled many trees that had fallen and blocked the Millstone Preserve trails. We also found that some of the trail had been cleared by some neighborhood "trail elves" who

have been keeping a close eye on that trail. That same day, several volunteers worked overtime to clear the Millstone West trail and finish a particularly difficult section of Rogers Preserve.



We ended 2012 clearing a majority of the trails at Rogers Arboretum on December 15 and began clearing Zaitz Woods on December 29. More work will be needed on all the trail systems to thoroughly clean them up, mark them, and keep them clear. Our thanks to all who have helped.



Bike Rides and Walks



We explored West Windsor and beyond by bike and on foot. Our sixth annual Community Bike Ride (for the first time paired with a walk) took us down the D&R Canal towpath to Brearley House in Lawrence, a stop on the almost-finished 20-mile Lawrence Hopewell Trail. We also ventured to Plainsboro and walked in the Plainsboro Preserve, rode to get ice cream and more. More than 100 people took part in our rides and walks, many of them joining for several.

We kicked off the season at the Farmers' Market with a community walk from Maurice Hawk School to the market in the Vaughn Drive parking lot. This time our route included the sidewalks added on Alexander Road in 2011.

Once again, we supported a 10-mile Ride of Silence in May to honor those who have been killed or injured while cycling on the road and to ask that we all share the road. Our thanks to the West Windsor Police for their escort and to Mather-Hodge for donating the services of a funeral hearse and driver. We thank all who took part in our events and offered suggestions for future bike rides and walks.



Classes: Learn to Bike and Other Skills



The WWBPA again held a members-only class at the Farmers' Market for children who were ready to get off training wheels and ride with just two wheels. The technique is simple: pedals and training wheels

come off, and kids sit and scoot along, learning to balance. Then the pedals go back on, and we review how to start and stop. A little bit of practice, and they're off! We held one class for adults using the same approach.

We also taught bike skills and safety to three Cub Scout dens. We shared lots of valuable lessons, from pre-ride checks, known as the ABC Quick Check, and proper fits for helmets (flat on the head, and snug), to being courteous and watching for others, whether riding on the sidewalk or in the street. And of course we had to go out for a ride to practice our skills! More information is on our website, wwbpa.org. Contact us at wwbikeped@gmail.com if you are interested in something similar for your group.



Other Events

The WWBPA maintained an every-other-week presence at the West Windsor Community Farmers' Market to talk about bicycling, walking, and safety. Our annual bike drive at the market to benefit Bike Exchange in Ewing (and through it, the Boys & Girls Club of Trenton) collected 25 bikes.

We also took part in Princeton's Communiiversity in April; West Windsor's National Night Out at Community Park in August; as well as health fairs in West Windsor, St. Anthony of Padua Church in Hightstown, and Munich Reinsurance America, Inc. in Plainsboro. Interested in having us at your company's health fair? Email us at wwbikeped@gmail.com.



Follow the WWBPA

The WWBPA emails our spring and fall newsletters, but relies on our website, Facebook, and Twitter to communicate news between newsletters and to get feedback from members and friends. Stay on top of events, advocacy, infrastructure improvements, and more by subscribing to wwbpa.org, and search for West Windsor Bicycle and Pedestrian Alliance on Facebook. Content is similar but not identical!



PO Box 625
West Windsor, NJ 08550
wwbpa.org
wwbikeped@gmail.com

Monthly Meetings

Second Thursday of every month at 7 p.m., Room A, West Windsor Municipal Building, North Post and Clarksville Roads. The next meetings are February 14, March 14, April 11, and May 9.

Annual Meeting

Thursday, March 14, at 7 p.m.

Our guest speakers will discuss their biking and walking adventures. Share yours in the question-and-answer period.

Meet our new student advisors, and join the discussion of how to make our community more bicycle and pedestrian friendly.

Members are encouraged to attend the annual meeting, at which we will discuss our goals for 2013 and vote for trustees. As always, all meetings are open to the general public.

Board of Trustees

Jerry Foster, *president*
Alison Miller, *first vice president*
Daryl McMillan, *second vice president*
Silvia Ascarelli, *secretary*
Stacey Karp, *treasurer*
Juan D. Cárdenas
Sonia Gawas
Dave Robinson
Mike Ruderman
Chris Scherer

Advisory Board

Ken Carlson, *founding trustee and past president*
Dan Gerstenhaber, *chairman, West Windsor BikeFest*
Alan Hershey, *chairman, NJ Trails Association*
Michael Ogg, *former trustee*
Joe Pica, *Chief of Police, West Windsor Township*
Sandy Shapiro, *founding trustee*

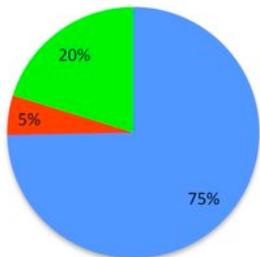
Student Advisors

Laura Foster
Alisha Kanitkar
Rachel Karp
Brandon Ling
Greg Ling
Elissa Lomakova
Sanjana Saksena

Robert Kenny, Esq., *counsel*

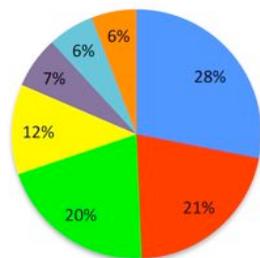
2012 Financial Summary

Member dues and contributions account for the largest part of WWBPA income, and Bristol Myers Squibb added a generous matching donation on behalf of its employees. The WWBPA awarded scholarships to two graduating seniors, paid our 25% share of the cost for installation of bike lockers, paid for a screening of the film *Ride the Divide*, and promoted education and safety with equipment and outreach.



2012 Income \$6,850

■ Member Dues/Contributions	\$5,115
■ Other Contributions	350
■ Safety Equipment	1,385



2012 Expenses \$6,423

■ Safety Equipment	\$1,805
■ Bike Locker Installation	1,364
■ Admin/Postage/Printing	1,314
■ Scholarships	750
■ Insurance	429
■ Education/Outreach	386
■ Dues/Subscriptions	375

Membership

Become a Member/Renew Your Membership

WWBPA membership continues to grow, with now about 425 members. If you didn't renew in 2012 or haven't joined, please consider doing so now. Membership dues make up nearly half our budget; the local support it represents gives us more clout with government officials. You can renew/join online at wwbpa.org (click on Join), or complete and mail the form below.

Membership Form

Tax-deductible membership dues are:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$15.00 Student | <input type="checkbox"/> I am interested in volunteering. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25.00 Adult | <input type="checkbox"/> I am a student interested in |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$40.00 Family | community service projects. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50.00 Supporter | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100.00 Benefactor | |

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____
 Email _____
 # household members _____

Please make checks payable to WWBPA, Inc. and return the completed form to:
 WWBPA
 PO Box 625
 West Windsor, NJ 08550