



# Neponset River Greenway Council Meeting

Wednesday, September 6, 2017, 7:00 – 9:00 pm

Milton Yacht Club, 25 Wharf St., Milton, MA

## AGENDA

### 1. Welcome, Introductions, and Guests

### 2. Along the Greenway with Stella Lensing, DCR Project Manager

**Signage:** *How much can the DCR do, and how much will we raise money to match funding?*

**Maintenance issues:** *What's new*

**Becoming a Non-Profit Friends Group:** *We should start the process if we want donations for match for signage*

#### Milton:

- Segment 2 – Central Ave to Mattapan Square: *Is there a date for an opening ceremony? How about expedited sign placement, trash barrels, comfort station along Segment 2*
- Segment 6 – Crossing Blue Hill Ave. *Are Milton crossing lights working?*
- *Are Brush Hill Road southbound 45 mph signs replaced?*

#### Dorchester:

- Segment 8 – Morrissey Blvd. drawbridge to UMass: *Next steps*
- Segment 3 – Victory Rd to Morrissey Blvd *Is there a design completion date? MassDOT contact?*
- Segment 4 – Tenean Beach to Victory Rd. *Bridge vs. MassDoT*  
*Dog pollution at Victory Rd. Park in ACEC*  
*Do we know more about MassDOT Project 608843, Project Manager: Edmond Libsch?*
- *We need to set a date for Pumpkin Float*

#### Mattapan:

- Segment 6 – Crossing Blue Hill Ave.: *Is there any progress for a crossing along River St.?*
- *Apartments on Mattapan Station parking lot. Construction start date?*

#### Hyde Park:

- Segment 7 – Fairmount to Dana Ave. *Next steps toward something along Truman Parkway?*
- Segment 9 – Connecting Trail to Paul's Bridge *Is anything happening yet*

### 3. Future Events

- Saturday, September 23 8:30 am–1:00 pm: Neponset River Cleanup: Meet at Martini Shell.
- Saturday, September 23 at 1:00–3:00 pm: Neighborhood Rides: Mattapan

### 4. Past Event Reports

- Saturday, August 5: Neighborhood Rides: Dorchester, meet at Ashmont Cycles
- Saturday, August 12: Tenean Beach Day
- Tuesday, August 15: Port Norfolk Civic Association Bar-B-Q

**Upcoming Meetings** – Meetings held first Wednesday of the month at 7:00pm

October 4, 2017	Hyde Park Police Station, Hyde Park	November 1, 2017	Somewhere in Dorchester
December 6, 2017	Foley Senior Residences, Mattapan	January 3, 2018	Milton Yacht Club, Milton

**Issues on the trail?** (non-emergency) MassParks line: 617-626-1250, 0 for operator or email [mass.parks@state.ma.us](mailto:mass.parks@state.ma.us)

Join [neponsetgreenway@googlegroups.com](mailto:neponsetgreenway@googlegroups.com) to take part in discussions between Greenway Council meetings

Join the *Neponset River Greenway Council* group on Facebook to keep track of Greenway events.

See our web site at <http://www.neponsetgreenway.org>

# A love affair, on two wheels

By [Yvonne Abraham](#) Globe Staff August 26, 2017

WENHAM — On my summer vacation, I fell in love.

It happened somewhere between Danvers and Wenham. My family and I had picked up [the rail trail to Topsfield](#) behind a sports complex off Route 114. We rode in the cool of the morning, through sunny suburban neighborhoods into the dappled light of the forest at Choate Farm, the brooks and backyards blurring by.

We rode for miles, greeting happy walkers and their dogs, waving to obliging drivers who always stopped to let us cross. We took a spur that led to a bucolic 4-mile loop around [the Grand Wenham Canal](#). We stopped off to stroll on the [beautifully maintained wooden walk](#) that snakes through the Wenham Great Swamp and the Ipswich River Basin, one little corner of an oasis jammed with life.

It didn't feel like Danvers, or Wenham. It seemed so far from there, and from everywhere. I was near tears, it was all so gorgeous. I'd fallen, hard.

What a ninny I am not to have ridden a rail trail before now. There are 23,000 miles of these beauties spread across the country, many concentrated in the Northeast and Midwest. Flat and often close to water, they're tailor-made for pleasure rides.

Feel like taking in a little history? Ride [the Minuteman Bikeway](#) from [Bedford](#) to Arlington and stop off at Lexington Green. Peckish? Hello, Arlington's Kickstand Cafe. The trails take you to places you often zoom by, boosting local businesses and lowering your blood pressure (although there is that artery-clogging steak bomb at Topsfield House of Pizza, and you biked hard and you were starving, OK?).

Why aren't these trails jammed all the time? Because too few people know about them, says David Loutzenheiser, senior transportation planner at [the Metropolitan Area Planning Council](#), which focuses on Greater Boston. And because too few of them connect to each other. Loutzenheiser has spent years [mapping the walking and biking trails](#) in the area. Stringing them together would create an 800-mile network of trails that would transform the way we get around.

That way, they all could be as successful as the well-used Minuteman, a true commuter trail. It leads walkers and riders from as far away as Concord to the Alewife T, and gives pleasure riders ways to access woods and wildlife, and some of the most important sites in the nation's history.

**It's happening in some places: A new, 1.3-mile stretch of the Neponset River trail [opened in May](#), connecting Mattapan Square and Pope John Paul II Park, complete with beautifully designed bridges and vistas that make you wonder how this could be Boston.**

Another game-changing byway the MAPC and others envision is the Northern Strand Trail, which would run all the way from Boston to Portland, Maine, by connecting existing trails. It would provide the first easy way for bikes to cross the Mystic River (this is where the Wynn casino folks can help), and go up through Everett, Malden, Saugus, and Revere, where a trail already exists, through Lynn, where it doesn't. From there a proposed route in Swampscott would lead to a lovely trail through Marblehead and Salem (just did that one, too), then onto my beloved Danvers trail and beyond.

Imagine what such a trail would do for the environment, people's mental and physical health, and community connections. And it would be just one part of an even more ambitious vision: a vast greenway that extends [from Maine to Florida](#).

Sounds like heaven, right?

Making it happen takes money, of course. It also requires a kind of civic vision that is lacking in some city halls, like Lynn's. And some neighbors — like [those in Swampscott](#) — balk at the idea of folks streaming past their yards, even though Loutzenheiser says abutters warm to the trails once they're built.

They should take a ride on one sometime. They might fall in love.

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