



# THE FRIENDS SPRING 2022 NEWSLETTER



*Have a seat! You'll find this newly-installed bench between Brandt Island Rd and the Fairhaven town line.*

## **Six New Benches (and More to Come!)**

An incredible team of volunteers (led by Regis Lavoie with Matt Dessert and brothers Andy and Evan Stackpole) installed six of the eleven purchased benches last weekend! Two were placed at the new Marion Connector (off Industrial Drive), and four are spread out between Mattapoissett Neck Road and the Fairhaven town line. These donated benches are awaiting recognition plaques.

In addition to the benches, six 5-foot bike racks have been delivered, ready for assembly and installation!



*Volunteer Matt Dessert drills one of the three holes needed to permanently cement the bench into place at the Connector parking area.*

# ***Partial Opening for Shining Tides?***

The Town and MassDOT have been discussing options for Phase 1B that include a partial opening. As you all are aware, the section between Reservation Road and Goodspeed Island Road needs replacement boards for the decking installed by MassDOT. However, the section between Mattapoissett Neck Road and Reservation Road is near completion. Although we have not received confirmation from the Town, Select Board Member Jordan Collyer commented on the Facebook page Mattapoissett Life that this half-mile section could open up as early as next month. We wanted our supporters to know that we are aware of this news, but we continue to be cautious and will share more information when we hear from the Town Administrator.

Please visit our website to view the rail trail map.

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## ***Applying for Grants to Fund Phase 2A***

We apologize again for the last-minute decision to withdraw our request for Community Preservation funding at Monday night's Town Meeting.

As Chairman of the Mattapoissett Bike Path Committee Steve Kelleher explained, "(We) anticipated that by now we would have some hard costs from the appraiser for Phase 2A. However, that work has not been completed. Therefore, I would like to withdraw Article 15 without prejudice until we have a more complete presentation for Town Meeting."

However, the Bike Path Committee and the Friends have prepared two federal and two state grant applications on behalf of our Town. Because of the recently passed federal Bi-Partisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), unprecedented amounts of funds are currently available. Our grant writers are working diligently on behalf of our Town to bring in federal infrastructure dollars to complete our bicycle/pedestrian path.

Again, we appreciate all the positive feedback we have received from our supporters!

# Bikes for All Celebrates One Year!

The Friends (in partnership with MattRec) started the Bikes for All program early in 2021, and we could not be happier with its progress! Last summer, our volunteers distributed over sixty donated and gently-used refurbished bicycles to children and adults. Thanks to additional donations, every recipient received a helmet, a bell, and basic safety instructions. We are looking forward to Bikes for All Day 2022!

We were in need of a new “bike shop” to store and fix the donated bikes. Thanks to the First Congregational Church of Mattapoisett, we now have that space! We are truly grateful to be involved in such a giving community.

If you would like to make a donation to help the Friends purchase bicycle parts and helmets, please go to the donate page of our website, and be sure to specify on your check or add a note in GoFundMe that your contribution is for Bikes for All.

Please contact us if you have a bike you would like to donate, or if you'd like to volunteer your time and fix-it abilities by helping us repair the donated bikes.

Contact Jane Finnerty 508-758-4548, jane.mattrail@gmail.com  
or Liz DiCarlo, 508-942-9343, lizdicarlo@comcast.net for more information.



*Friends Board Member Bill Emmons adjusts a bike seat at the first Bikes for All Day in 2021.*

# Looking Forward to Harbor Days 2022



*Board member Ann Bryant (left) and President Renee Pothier (right) flank our volunteers Paul and Louise Anthony at the Harbor Days booth last summer.*

We'll be waiting for you at our Harbor Days booth on July 16 and 17! Seeing our devoted supporters is always a plus, but we always look forward to meeting new ones, so please bring a friend!

FYI: We have a few more stickers to hand out, so be sure to stop by for one (while supplies last!)

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## Donate to the Path or to Bikes for All

We would appreciate any donation amount to help toward the completion of the Mattapoisett Rail Trail, amenities along the trail, or toward our Bikes for All program!

Please go to:

<https://mattapoisetttrailtrail.com/donate>.

Thank you!

*The Friends is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Follow us on Facebook!*