

From: Christine Mastal [christine@op-3.com]
Sent: Monday, January 05, 2015 9:50 AM
To: City Council; Lopez, Donna
Cc: Chris Moss
Subject: [FreshPond RA] Bike path to Watertown (pls support Council policy order on 1/5)

Dear Cambridge City Councillors~

As a resident of the Strawberry Hill neighborhood and an abutter to the abandoned rail line, I would like to express my support for temporarily paving over the rail tracks. Leaving it unpaved and unattended leads to people using it as a dumping ground for miscellaneous trash. Unfortunately once one person leaves their garbage behind more rapidly follows. I believe that people see the abandoned path and think they can use it as their personal dump. (My husband has — on multiple occasions - caught people attempting to dump large quantities of trash and construction debris on the tracks). If the path was paved it would send a message to litterers that this is a space that is looked after and would take a much needed step toward reducing the amount of trash left behind.

In addition, I would also ask that as part of the paving project the city would begin to manicure the trees and brush on either side of the rail line. There are several very tall, dead trees that threaten the property of those that live in the neighborhood and they need to be removed before the fall on someone's home.

Please feel free to be in touch with any followup questions or comments that you have for me. Thank you for taking the time to hear my thoughts.

All my best,
-Christine Mastal

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From: Jan Devereux <jan.devereux@gmail.com>
Date: January 1, 2015 at 11:00:44 AM EST
To: FPRA Google Group <fresh-pond-residents-alliance@googlegroups.com>
Subject: [FreshPond RA] Bike path to Watertown (pls support Council policy order on 1/5)
Reply-To: jan.devereux@gmail.com

On the City Council's agenda for Monday 1/5 is a policy order asking for an update on funding for the construction of the bike path along the former rail line from Concord Ave to connect to the Watertown Greenway.

The path would run alongside Fresh Pond, under Huron Ave by Aberdeen St, by the Star Market and over to the Arsenal Mall to connect with the recently completed Watertown Greenway to Waltham. The city purchased this portion of the rail line in 2013 and the path part of in the new bike master plan. Councillors Mazen, McGovern and Kelley are asking the manager to consider a temporary paving plan to accelerate putting this right of way to use by cyclists and pedestrians.

Please send comments to the Councillors (council@cambridgema.gov) and the clerk (dlopez@cambridgema.gov) or call to sign up for the public comment portion of the hearing (617-349-4280). Meeting starts at 5:30 and will be held at CRLS in the school committee meeting room off Broadway.

This policy order also asks for an update on the possibility of purchasing the spur of the rail line that runs behind New St. (Reminder: DPW will discuss the design for the reconstruction of New St with residents on Th 1/15 at 6 pm at Tobin. Please save the date.)

Jan Devereux