

## **MAD BIKES OF WAITSFIELD**

### **2010 Report of the Community Bike Project**

The Mad Bikes of Waitsfield, a free, community bike program, is now three years old. The fleet of 20 bikes and the bike racks will be dispersed throughout Waitsfield in early May.

The idea for the bike program came from discussion at the 2007 Valley Futures Network (VFN) retreat. Two participants, Laura Brines and Bobbi Rood volunteered to head-up Valley Moves, a VFN working group focused on issues of transportation, out of which grew the Mad Bikes project. Bobbi resigned from this committee Spring, 2010 and we thank her for all she did to make this project a reality. The Committee welcomes our newest member, Taz Squire.

The Project's success to date is largely due to the important partnerships with other organizations and businesses. Most importantly, the Waitsfield Selectboard brought this project under the auspices of the Town by creating a new committee to manage the Mad Bikes project. The Mad Bikes of Waitsfield has received funding from the Mad River Valley Rec District. The Mad River Valley Health Center designed and built 12 bike racks with financial support from the Mad River Valley Rotary Club, local businesses, and private individuals. This fall members of the Health Center Board collected all the bike racks for winter storage. Troy Kingsbury of the Village Grocery and other volunteers continue to be very active in finding bikes for the fleet, ensuring that they are maintained, and helping to keep them distributed around town. The team at Stark Mountain Bike Works has been very supportive. We collaborated with a group of HUHS VYCC students and their teachers in the spring. The students painted and tuned many of the bikes. A Mad Bikes painting and tuning day was held at Knoll Farm on the 350.org day, 10/10/10.

The Mad Bikes Committee worked during the Fall semester with a group of 5 UVM students participating in a Community Initiatives Learning Course. The students helped the Committee craft and adopt a mission statement:

*“Mad River Bikes aims to provide a fun alternative source of transportation through a free bike sharing program. This program provides bike education, along with promoting the health of individuals, the community and the environment.”*

The UVM students had the following recommendations for the Mad Bikes Committee:

- 1) Raise and allocate funds for program expansion;
- 2) Develop organizational system for bike availability and storage and create a routine maintenance schedule; and
- 3) Create official location for Mad Bikes program with maintenance shop, bike storage area, and front desk for informational materials.

The Committee is giving these recommendations serious consideration. With ongoing financial support from the Mad River Valley Rec District, the program will be in good shape for rolling out year four this spring in conjunction with the annual Mad River Valley Walk and Roll Festival, May 14-21. This year's Walk and Roll Festival includes a Family Bike & Trike Sale, May 14 at Waitsfield Elementary School and a bike-to-work & school day.

Aside from its primary service of providing bikes to those who choose to use them within Waitsfield, the project is helping to enhance Waitsfield as a bike-friendly community and setting the stage for further development of bicycle oriented projects and infrastructure.

If you have an adult bike to donate to this community bike program please drop it off at the Village Grocery. If you have a child's bike, you can sell it at the Family Bike Swap. Thank you.

The Mad Bikes of Waitsfield Committee members:

Laura Brines, Waitsfield  
David Cain, Waitsfield  
Troy Kingsbury, Waitsfield  
Peter Lazorchak, Waitsfield  
Taz Squire, Waitsfield

Alternates:

Sue Frechette, Warren  
Liz Weller, Moretown



VYCC and Mad Bikes

Photo: L. Brines