

On May 29th Friends of the Canalwalk group hosted a presentation by Kathy Anderson and Karen Mendrala from the Holyoke Office of Planning and Development. We were informed that the first phase 1a construction was to begin some time this building season. No specific start dates were cited and unclear news regarding the design plans/ Department of Highways status. We have since learned that Mayor Sullivan made a formal announcement about Canalwalk Phase 1a (Appleton to Dwight Streets) expected to go to bid September 6, 2008 AND completion date for 1a to be Summer 2009.

Also at our meeting Karen presented some new information about a TOD grant (Transit Oriented Design) which, if funded, could provide landscaping enhancements to Dwight and other East/West streets and connect the Canalwalk to the planned InterModal transportation center.

Other City initiatives: assessment/clean up grants, bridge concerns (funding and construction options), artist collaborations were discussed. We were informed, things are "moving along as best as it can". And the City considers the project a high priority item. Copies of design plans were available to view at end of presentation. Kathy and Karen stated that they would be available in future to respond to the group and anyone with additional questions.

We have learned that there will be a Downtown Improvements meeting on June 26 at 6P at Heritage State Park. The Planning Office will be presenting information about current projects. We will be attending and encourage everyone who is able to attend as well. A large community presence is always a good thing!

We've decided to meet as a smaller working group this month. We hope to focus on developing our logo, a mission statement, perhaps put together a press kit which could be used at the farmer's market to increase visibility in the community. We will send a fuller update soon and hope to meet as a larger group some time in July (we're shooting for Thursday July 17th at 7p). We encourage everyone to stay involved via email. Send us any pertinent articles or news about Canalwalk developments you may hear about. Also include your questions, concerns or ideas. We'll send another update and

email before the next meeting date in July. Thanks to all for your interest and continuing participation.

Please refer to the following interesting links for more canalwalk info:

Craig Della Penna interview part 1:

[http://blog.masslive.com/localbuzz/2008/06/the\\_long\\_walk\\_part\\_i\\_interview.htm](http://blog.masslive.com/localbuzz/2008/06/the_long_walk_part_i_interview.htm)

Craig Della Penna interview part 1a:

[http://blog.masslive.com/localbuzz/2008/06/the\\_long\\_walk\\_part\\_1a\\_more\\_of.html](http://blog.masslive.com/localbuzz/2008/06/the_long_walk_part_1a_more_of.html)

Article about Canalwalk that appeared in the Republican on Monday, June

16th:

<http://www.masslive.com/republican/stories/index.ssf?/base/news-12/1213600810193520.xml&coll=1>