

# Local Legislators Tour Charles River Meadowlands

State legislators, Kevin Kuros(R) representing Bellingham, and Jeffrey Roy (D) representing Franklin and Medway, gathered at the site of the old Pearl Street Mill with Bellingham town Selectmen Mike Soter and Don Martinis Tuesday, January 31. They were invited by Franklin resident Alan Earls, chair of the Charles River Meadowlands initiative, to update the lawmakers about what has happened so far at the Pearl Street site, and to let them see for themselves how the Charles River is flowing freely now that the dam and the mill buildings in that area have been removed. Lawmakers were also taken on a short tour of some access points to Army Corps of Engineers Charles River floodplain property just off Pond Street in Franklin. The purpose of the tour was to help raise awareness of the possibilities for future public access to the river and its tributaries.

*Photo and text courtesy of Marjorie Turner Hollman*



**I-R Kevin Kuros, (behind him, Bellingham town planner Jim Kupfer), Bellingham selectman Don Martinis, Franklin resident Alan Earls, Bellingham Selectman Mike Soter, and Metacomet Land Trust board member Larry Rettman stand at the edge of a former trolley bed at the end of Oak Street extension. The path reaches into the Army Corps flood plain in Franklin. With the addition of a bridge, the trolley bed would continue all the way to the Whole Foods plaza in Bellingham.**