



August 3, 2010

Grants will help local rail-trail groups

By Terry Date

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WINDHAM — Area rail-trail organizations will use grant money they got last week to publicize and keep the Derry-to-Salem rail trail tidy.

The Granite State Wheelmen cycling group awarded \$2,500 each to the Friends of the Salem Bike-Ped Corridor, the Windham Rail Trail Alliance, the Derry Rail Trail Alliance and Londonderry Trailways, said Dave Topham, a co-founder of the Wheelmen.

Windham Rail Trail Alliance members were at the Depot Road part of the trail Saturday morning to receive their check from Topham.

Joining Topham were Norm Babeneau, John Mangan, Wayne Morris and Mark Samsel.

Samsel said Windham will use the \$2,500 to install a guardrail at the entrance to the Depot Road section and prevent cyclists from wandering off the trail.

Other rail trail groups will use their grant dollars to recruit volunteers to keep the trail clean, as well as publicize the trail, Topham said.

The Windham parking lot was full Saturday morning. Families biked and walked the paved 10-mile rail bed.

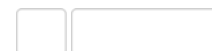
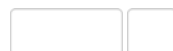
Among the visitors were Tony and Norma Palma's family and their two dogs.

The Londonderry residents walked and their



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TERRY DATE/Staff photo Mark Samsel, left, of the Windham Rail Trail Alliance receives a \$2,500 check from Dave Topham of the Granite State Wheelmen cycling group, with Wayne Morris, Norm Babeneau, and John Mangan. The group was at the Depot Road section of the trail on Saturday and will use the grant to install guard rail. Terry Date



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HampsteadGrandpa 08/03/2010 02:49 PM

Excellent news! What a great place to go walking or bicycling! Looking forward to seeing it finished!

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It was their first visit and they said they look forward to walking it again.

"I hope it extends to Londonderry (some day)," Norma Palma said.

Topham said the goal is to connect the trail from Methuen to Manchester in 10 years.

Windham got the project off the ground, designing and raising money for the trail, he said.

"This is growing exponentially past Windham and I'd like to think we had a part in (starting that)," Samsel said.

Babeneau estimated that hundreds of people use the trail on the weekends.

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