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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT of NATURAL and CULTURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION of PARKS and RECREATION
BUREAU of TRAILS

172 Pembroke Road Concord, New Hampshire 03301
Phone: (603) 271-3254 Fax: (603) 271-3553 E-Mail: nhtrails@dncr.nh.gov
Web: www.nhtrails.org

September 21, 2023

His Excellency, Governor Christopher T. Sununu
and the Honorable Council
State House
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

REQUESTED ACTION

Pursuant to RSA 216-A:3-o, authorize the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, Division of Parks and Recreation, Bureau of Trails to accept a donation from Cross New Hampshire Adventure Trail in the amount of \$20,420 for the purpose of rail trail maintenance throughout the Northern part of New Hampshire effective upon Governor and Council approval. 100% Other Funds.

Funds will be budgeted in the following account:

03-035-035-351510-48430000, Trails Donations & Gifts

Class-Account-RG	Description	FY24 Current Adjusted Authorized	Requested Action	FY24 Revised Adjusted Authorized
005-401734-20	Private Local Funds	\$0	\$20,420	\$20,420
103-500736	Contract Repairs; Bldg. Grounds	\$0	\$20,420	\$20,420

EXPLANATION

The Cross New Hampshire Adventure Trail is a volunteer organization working with Northern White Mountain communities, business, and trail clubs to market and promote the area as a bicycling destination. One of their goals is to support efforts to restore and maintain 2 rail trails known as the Ammonoosuc Recreation Trail and the Presidential Rail Trail which are scenic highlights of a larger trail system that span 83 miles, connecting 13 towns from Woodsville, New Hampshire to Bethel, Maine.

Respectfully submitted,

Concurred,

Brian J. Wilson
Director

Sarah L. Stewart
Commissioner



Cross New Hampshire Adventure Trail

PO Box 1047

Glen, NH 03838

crossnewhampshire@gmail.com

Re: Match Funding for the Extension of the Ammonoosuc Recreational Rail Trail

September 14, 2023

Dear Commissioner Stewart,

The Cross New Hampshire Adventure Trail (xNHAT) is an 83 mile, primarily off-road and back road bicycle route across the North Country of New Hampshire. The route starts in Woodsville, travels through 10 North Country towns, extends into Maine and currently ends in Bethel. The xNHAT is enjoyed by both cyclo-tourists traversing the state and by locals for day trips or short excursions on their community recreational rail trails and back roads.

The mission of the xNHAT is to promote and help maintain a pleasurable off-road and quiet back road route for cyclists, walkers, runners, families, seniors, XC skiers and the growing number of people who enjoy cyclo-tourism and bikepacking. We celebrate and promote these outdoor activities and aim to enhance the recreation economy of the North Country.

The xNHAT includes the Ammonoosuc and Presidential Recreational Rail Trails as scenic gems of the route. We have had a very successful collaboration with the NH Bureau of Trails (NHBOT) to accomplish many projects on these two rail trails to restore the rail bed and improve surface conditions to keep the trails safe and enjoyable for ALL of the allowed users, motorized and non-motorized. In addition, the projects serve to make the rail bed more resistant to our frequent weather challenges.

We are proud to have obtained many grants and donations that allow us to help fund projects to improve and extend these multi-use rail trails for walkers, runners, bicyclists, equestrians, thru-cyclists on the xNHAT, OHRVs and snowmobiles.

In November of 2021 we partnered with the NHBOT to extend the Ammonoosuc Recreational Rail Trail 2.2 miles eastward from Littleton into Bethlehem by providing matching funds for the rail/tie removal. Removal of the rails and ties benefits the cyclists and walkers (off of the shoulder of busy route 116) and snowmobiles (allows for grooming and sledding in low snow cover).

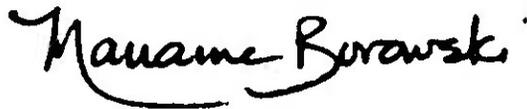
Once again the xNHAT is partnering with the NHBOT to extend the Ammonoosuc Recreational Rail Trail another 2.3 miles eastward. We are proud to provide \$20,420 as matching funds to the Recreational Trails Program project for removing rails and ties on the Bethlehem portion of the state abandoned rail bed per Project No. TB-2301.

We feel that this project is consistent with our mission and goals and will benefit all trail users over all four seasons of the year. In addition, the extended rail trail provides needed connectivity for local bicycle and snowmobile routes.

The xNHAT is willing and prepared to donate match funding and volunteer time to help with other rail/tie removal projects to create more miles of rail trail. We will continue to partner with the NHBOT, snowmobile and ATV clubs to make these unused rail corridors enjoyable for four seasons of recreational activities.

Thank you for the opportunity to be a part of this project!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marianne Borowski". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial 'M'.

Marianne Borowski
President and Founder of the Cross New Hampshire Adventure Trail
www.crossnewhampshire.org