

Bike trail could link Corner

A bike trail could find new life and link the Northwest Corner to a network of trails stretching hundreds of miles north.

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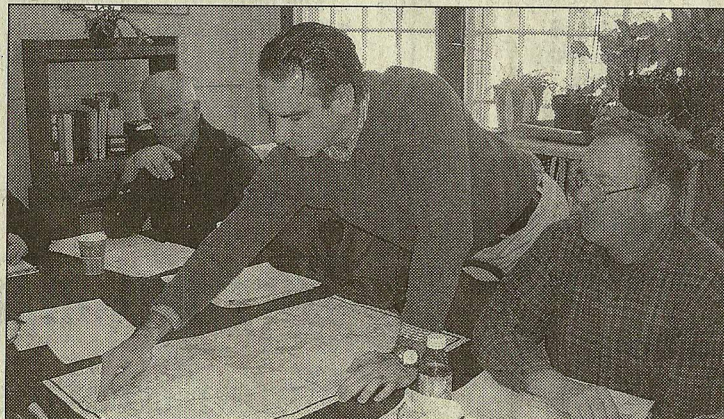
GRANT SOUGHT FOR BIKE TRAIL IN NORTHWEST CORNER

45-mile route would cross old bridges

BY RUTH EPSTEIN
REPUBLICAN-AMERICAN

WARREN — Rural Northwestern Connecticut is an ideal location for bicycling, but a \$10,000 grant would help make riders aware of problems on a 45-mile trail that already exists along old river roads, and help resolve some issues.

Dan McGuinness, director of the Northwestern Connecticut Council of Governments, told the council Thursday that Housatonic Covered Bridge Trail will be formed to oversee a trail that follows the Housatonic River and crosses two covered bridges, one in Cornwall and the other in Kent.



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Sal Lilienthal, owner of Bicycle Tour Co. of Kent, shows the route for the proposed Housatonic Covered Bridge Trail for bicycling to members of the Northwestern Connecticut Council of Governments on Thursday. Looking on is Kent First Selectman Bruce K. Adams, left, and Cornwall First Selectman Gordon M. Ridgway.

The group would be a subcommittee of the Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area.

The idea was initiated by Hare Planning, a local planning consultant firm and the her-

itage area. Hare Planning brought together the Northwest Conservation District, the council of governments, the Bicycle Company in Kent and selectmen in Salisbury and Colebrook

to work on outlining a trail that will serve as the spine for loop routes. Those routes are on scenic roads in each of the nine towns the trail will serve. The "HouBike," as it's been dubbed, will connect to another north-south trail along the Housatonic in western Massachusetts, which in turn will connect to a north-south trail in Vermont.

McGuinness, along with Sal Lilienthal, owner of the Bicycle Company, said they were asking for an endorsement of an application to Bikes Belong from the heritage area for the \$10,000 grant.

Bikes Belong is a nonprofit organization that supports bicycle companies. The heritage area will match the grant with \$5,000 from the National Park Service.

The money will be used for field work, GIS mapping, comparison of alternatives and meetings with local and state agencies.