

E-Bike Lending Comes to Andover and New London

Loaners in Andover on September 21 and 27

Larry Chase, Andover Energy Group

As gasoline prices top \$5 a gallon, and as alternatives to the internal combustion engine grow, the focus on electric bikes is increasing across the country – not least in the Upper Valley of Vermont and New Hampshire, where an Upper Valley E-Bike Lending Library is under way in its second year.

What this means for Andover residents is two local opportunities to try out various types of e-bikes for free – one in New London, between Wednesday, July 20 and Tuesday, August 9; and one in Andover between Wednesday, September 21 and Tuesday, September 27. In both instances, two kinds of e-bike experiences will be offered: one-hour demos, and overnight borrowing. And four different varieties of e-bikes will be available.

In New London, the Lending Li-

brary will be managed by the New London Energy Committee and located at the offices of the New London Recreation Department at 25 Seamans Road.

In Andover, the project will be managed by the Andover Energy Group and located at the Andover Historical Society's freight shed on Depot Street in Potter Place.

For more information, contact Vital Communities at 802 291-3939 or VitalCommunities.org/events.



Vital Communities shows off one of their loaner e-bikes, part of an e-bike lending program aimed at giving people the chance to try out one of these electric bikes.

AARP Awards 2022 Community Challenge Grant to FNRT

Funding for Cycling Without Age project

Press release

The AARP Community Challenge grant program announced their 2022 grantees on June 29. Friends of the Northern Rail Trail (FNRT) is very excited to be one of the winning organizations.

AARP grants are intended to make tangible improvements in communities that jump-start long-term change. The program is part of AARP's nationwide Livable Communities initiative, which supports the efforts of cities, towns, neighborhoods, and rural areas to become great places to live for people of all ages. To learn more, visit AARP.org/Livable.

The ambitious project AARP is funding for FNRT will start out in Lebanon, in collaboration with Lebanon Park and Recreation, and hopefully be adopted by other cities and towns along the Northern

Rail Trail. It is called Cycling Without Age (CWA) and is being spearheaded by FNRT board member Amy Chan.

Cycling Without Age is an international, volunteer-based program that connects seniors or less abled individuals with pilots (cyclists) who take them for rides on an electric passenger trishaw. The program aims to increase access to the Northern Rail Trail and the bike-friendly streets of Lebanon for
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FNRT purchased an electric trishaw with the proceeds from the AARP Community Challenge grant recently awarded. The program is called Cycling Without Age and will start out in Lebanon.

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