



NH Railroad Revitalization Association

September 22, 2008

Tonight's meeting was called to order by President Peter Griffin @ 7:00 PM at the Health and Safety Council in Concord.

Attendees:

Name	Town
Peter Griffin	Windham, NH
Bill Remington	Concord, NH
Stephen Flanders	Weare, NH
Tom Noel	New Boston, NH
Stephen Piper	Dover, NH
George Katsakiores	Derry, NH

Name	Town
Frank Judge	Bedford, NH
Gary Kerr	Chichester, NH
Gus Sheedy	Derry, NH
Larry Ayer	Nashua, NH
Winthrop Buswell	Laconia, NH

Visitors: Jim Bull (Windham, NH)

August Minutes

The August 25 meeting minutes were approved with one correction.

Treasurer's Report

Steve Flanders reported the organization's account balance. No expenditures were made last month. Steve handed out application brochures at the recent railroad show in Concord.

Bill Signing

Tom reported on the bill signing and photo op for the liability insurance cap. Approximately 30 people attended to witness Governor Lynch sign the bill and make some brief positive comments on his support for rail. Peter Leishman and Senator Burling also spoke

NHRTA

Tom reported on the last NHRTA meeting. The Technical Committee, which includes Mike Izbicki and Ron O'Blenis, came up with a cost estimate for establishing the service from Lowell to Manchester of \$200-300 million and may escalate if the project is delayed until 2013 or later. This price would include double tracking from Lowell to Nashua, three stations located at Nashua, Airport at Bedford, and Manchester plus one station in North Chelmsford, MA. It would also include the purchase of 19 new coaches and one new locomotive. The cost was based on a recent traffic demand study completed by Parsons-Brinckerhoff. According to the \$13,000 study, between 3000 and 5500 trips /day would be taken depending on the level of service chosen. Trip time from Manchester to Boston would be about 79 minutes if the trains could go express after Anderson Station in Woburn, otherwise it would take about 88 minutes if all other stops are included. Total operational costs would be about \$10-12 million per year with \$4-6 million recovered from the farebox.

A bill will be introduced to the Legislature January 1 to create an additional position on the NHRTA Board to allow Peter Burling to remain on as Chair after he departs the Senate. It is expected to pass without issue.

Senator Burling would like to create an Executive Committee of 7 members within the NHRTA and hire

and Executive Director and Secretary when funding might become available (no sooner than July 1, 2009). The NHRTA will utilize NHDOT staff to help as offered until that time.

I-93 Transit Investment Study

Peter reported that the study is coming to a close. Two resulting viable options have been identified. The first would be a bus on dedicated shoulder beginning in 5 years from Boston that would complete in NH by 2030. This would have an estimated cost of \$80 million. The second would be the restoration of the Manchester & Lawrence rail corridor with planned stops at Exit 5, Londonderry, Derry, Salem, Methuen and Woburn (Anderson). No major intrusions exist on this section of the corridor. The feed store entrance in Derry is the only encroachment on the R.O.W.

Peter met with the Derry Planning Board to make the argument that rail corridors are attracting development and Derry could be at a competitive disadvantage. Peter also met with the Windham Planning Board last week to make a similar case and they were very receptive.

Other Business

Peter spoke on the Economic Transportation round table discussion that was held in Bedford on September 13th. NHDOT Commissioner Campbell attended and was discouraged about the 10 and 25 MPH speed limits that currently restrict freights.

Winthrop mentioned he's had discussions with Capitol Distributors, said they would receive shipments by rail if they could be guaranteed 5-day/week service.

Gary suggested that we need to get more people to know that NHRRA exists. We need to increase public relations and promote rail service in NH as a "green" alternative.

Winthrop has purchased an advertisement in Trains magazine for his railroad artwork and emphasized that 10% of his profits will go to NHRRA. Trains would also be interested in doing a human interest feature if NHRRA can provide the information.

Gary provided the results obtained to date from his survey. 40 respondents gave comments (attached). He suggested the survey link be placed on the NERail list service.

Peter has found a source for printing bumper stickers.

Steve Piper reported the Downeaster hit another record ridership in August of over 50,800. He displayed a typical performance report generated by NNEPRA.

Bill has discussed linking the NHRRA web site with the proposed NHRTA web site with Senator Burling.

Frank suggested communicating with the NH Board of Realtors.

Bill reported that Nik and Mark will be meeting with the CEO of PSNH and economic developer Pat McDermitt to pursue potential grants.

Peter advised that the Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce will be holding their annual Infrastructure Summit on October 28th (7:30-11:30 AM at the Radisson Hotel) and it will be devoted to transportation.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM

Next meeting: Monday, October 27, 2008 at 7 PM
 Safety & Health Council
 163 Manchester Street, Concord

Minutes by: Stephen R. Piper, Secretary