



NH Railroad Revitalization Association

January 26, 2009

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
Larry Ayer	Nashua, NH
Gus Sheedy	Derry, NH
Lenny McGee	Manchester, NH
Steve Flanders	Weare, NH
Bill Remington	Concord, NH
Tom Noel	New Boston, NH

Name	Town
George Katsakiores	Derry, NH
Frank Judge	Bedford, NH
Ken Milender	Warner, NH
Peter Griffin	Windham, NH
Dennis Grimes	Bedford, NH
Winthrop Buswell	Laconia, NH

Visitors: Anant Panwalkar (Concord, NH) – Nobis Engineering

December Minutes

The December 22 meeting minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report

Steve Flanders reported the organization's account balance. He also reported a \$44 payment to Bill Remington for printing costs.

Guests

Peter Griffin welcomed two guests Ryan Condon and Mark Botnick both of Manchester. They stated that they were strong supporters of the restoration of commuter rail service to Manchester.

NH Rail Transit Authority Update

Tom Noel reported on the Jan. 16 meeting of NHRTA held in the Legislative Office Bldg. in Concord.

- (1) Lisa Levine from Rep. Hodes office provided an update on the stimulus package. She said there will not be earmarks in the stimulus bill however NHDOT Commissioner Campbell has included the NH Capitol Corridor Project in his NH request for stimulus funds. In answer to a question from Board member Kathy Hersch from Nashua, she said that Rep. Hodes has requested that approx. \$3 million be included in the FY 2009 omnibus appropriations bill for the Capitol Corridor project.
- (2) David Hiltz from NHDOJ recommended several amendments to the draft NHRTA By-Laws, which were approved by the Board.
- (3) Board member Tim Moore briefly discussed the revisions he had made to the draft By-Laws since the December meeting. The Board then adopted the By-Laws including the approved amendments recommended by David Hiltz.
- (4) Interim Exec. Director Mike Izbicki reported that he had met with Kit Morgan from NHDOT to discuss funding and that he had met with Patricia Quinn from the Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority to build a bridge of cooperation between the NH and Maine authorities.

The NHRTA will meet again on Friday, Feb. 20 @ 10 AM in Rms. 201-203 of the LOB.

Legislation Review

Bill Remington passed out copies of several bills introduced in the 2009 session of the state legislature, which might be of interest to NHRRA and then he led a discussion of these bills with the members present. One bill in particular was of interest to the members - SB 71, which calls for the establishment of a commission to study the feasibility of regional transit. Bill pointed out that the membership of the proposed commission included the Boston Express bus service, but no rail organization and he said the NHRRA ought to be on it. The members voiced agreement on this.

Peter Griffin said he had already contacted Sen. Fuller Clark (one of the bill's sponsors) by e-mail requesting that NHRRA be added to the commission and that he would follow up on this.

NH Businesses for Transportation and Infrastructure

Peter Griffin reported that NHRRA has been invited to participate in this new initiative and the members present agreed that we should. Peter will be our representative on this initiative.

Other Business

Bill Remington handed out copies of the synopsis of the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2008 (the Amtrak reauthorization and funding bill).

Frank Judge and others had a wide-ranging discussion on sources of NH rail funding, uses of funding, the lack of public knowledge of the NH Rail Transit Auth. including their lack of a Web site, service issues of Quebec Cement, funding of highways (I-93 and 101), etc.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM

Next meeting: Monday, February 23, 2009 at 7 PM
 Safety & Health Council
 163 Manchester Street, Concord

Minutes by: Thomas M. Noel, Vice President