

NH Railroad Revitalization Association

August 24, 2009

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

Attendees:

Peter Griffin	Windham	Frank Judge	Bedford
Larry Ayer	Nashua	Bill Remington	Concord
Steve Flanders	Weare	Andrew Duguay	Franklin
Jim Bull	Windham	Sam Langley	Boscawen
Winthrop Buswell	Laconia	Gus Meissner	Dublin
Bob Hamm	Merrimack	Dennis Grimes	Bedford
Gary Kerr	Chichester	Tom Noel	New Boston

Peter Griffin welcomed guests Yang Baohua of Xian, China (a friend of Winthrop Buswell) and Shawn Cleary of Manchester. Mr. Cleary is a representative of the NH Ironworkers.

July Minutes

The July 27 minutes were approved as written.

Treasurer's Report

Steve Flanders reported the organization's account balance and two expenditures: \$11.01 to Bill Remington for printing and \$22.50 for a table at the Railroad Glory Days in WRJ.

Marketing Committee

Jim Bull reported that he had no update on the homeshows or NHRRA website. However he and Andrew Duguay put NHRRA (as a non-profit) as a site on Facebook – we can put on information, photos, videos, etc. Shawn Cleary said that the Ironworkers can put NH rail information on their website – he added that the Ironworkers advocate that any rail project actually stimulates the economy by providing good paying jobs.

NH Capitol Corridor

Tom Noel reported on the NHRRA meeting of August 14. The public input at the beginning of the meeting included Peter Dearness (New England Southern) advocating for the reopening of the Northern Line to WRJ and Mark Richardson (NHBTI) reporting a very successful meeting his organization held

the previous week with business members and environmental groups who support bringing passenger rail to Manchester.

Update on Grant Process – Peter Burling met last week with a FRA representative who said most New England projects except the Downeaster are not ready for capital funding. He suggested that NH apply for \$3 million for planning. Mike Izbicki stated that NH will be submitting a Track 3 application on Aug. 24 for \$3 million for planning the Lowell to Concord corridor (will need a 50% state match) and will submit a Track 2 application on Oct.2 for \$300 million for constructing the Lowell to Concord corridor. He said NH should hear decision on Track 3 application by Oct./Nov. and Track 2 by Nov./Dec. He said it is anticipated that there will be another round of funding next year so NH plans to apply again if its Track 2 application is not approved in this round. Board member Kathy Hersh asked where the 50% match for the \$3 million in planning funds would come from – Peter Burling replied that a number of sources were being looked at including private funds and in-kind funds (so-called soft match).

Proposed NHRTA Logo Contest – Board member Christine Walker reviewed the proposed contest rules and guidelines and the list of media outlets to which the contest info would be sent. It was agreed that there will be a NHRTA press release announcing the contest and that entries must be submitted by Nov. 15. The Board then approved a motion to proceed with the contest.

Next meeting: Fri., Sept. 25 @ 10 AM, LOB 201, Concord.

Plaistow Extension

Peter Griffin reported that the plan to extend MBTA service to Plaistow is on hold for the moment due to a change in MBTA administration and a reorganization of all MA transportation agencies.

Other Business

Bill Remington brought our attention to a New England Southern issue with Pan Am. He said Peter Dearness has asked if the NHRRA would write a letter to the Surface Transp. Board (STB) in support of his proposal to have an interchange with Pan Am. Tom Noel expressed concern that it might jeopardize our 501 (c)(3) status with the IRS. Regardless, there was not going to be enough time to prepare a letter for the STB deadline. For the future, Peter Griffin asked Tom Noel to contact the NHDOJ as to whether such letters cause a problem with our IRS status.

Meeting adjourned at 9 PM.

Next meeting: Monday, Sept. 28 @ 7 PM
Safety & Health Council
57 Regional Drive, Concord

Minutes by: Thomas M. Noel, Vice-Pres.