

NH Railroad Revitalization Association

Sept. 28, 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	Lenny McGee	Manchester
Ken Milender	Warner	Jim Bull	Windham
Steve Flanders	Weare	Dennis Grimes	Bedford
Bill Remington	Concord	Tom Noel	New Boston

August Minutes

The August 28th minutes were approved as written.

Treasurer's Report

Steve Flanders reported the organization's account balance

Marketing Report

Lenny McGee pointed out that the New England RR Club Expo is not until next March so there is plenty of time to decide if we want to attend to provide NHRRA information.

Jim Bull reported that there had been a number of signups on our new Facebook account since our last meeting and that he is still pursuing the MBTA to be on it. He said he still needs to know if we're going to homeshows and railroad clubs before we spend money for materials to hand out. He also asked how we want to reach out to inform more people about NHRRA and the NH rail projects. Can we put together a set presentation to towns along the NH Capitol Corridor?

Tom Noel mentioned that David Preece of the NHRRA was working a set of talking points to be used in a similar way that Jim has suggested. After more discussion, it was suggested that we could contact David Preece to see if we could help him with the projects he is working on for the NHRRA. Tom Noel agreed to contact him.

Peter Griffin said he is still interested in having something to give new members such as a bumper or window sticker.

NHRTA Update

Tom Noel reported on the Sept. 25th NHRTA meeting.

Kit Morgan (NHDOT) stated that the \$300 million Stimulus funds application for the NH Capitol and HSR Corridors is very detailed and extensive – it is due Oct. 2. In answer to a question from the public, he said nothing is happening with the \$1.9 million earmark that Rep. Hodes obtained for rail planning until they see if NH gets funding from its Stimulus applications. David Preece reported that he, Kathy Hersh and Chris Clements (NHDOT) are preparing a talking points document for use as a power point presentation to various groups along the NH Capitol Corridor (referenced above).

Tim Moore of the Master Planning Committee distributed a draft letter to all NH planning agencies asking for their input for a 20 year NH Master Rail Plan. Kit Morgan said that NH is in the process of preparing a new NH rail plan – a federal requirement in order to be eligible for future non-Stimulus funds. He is concerned that there would be duplication of effort by the planning agencies. After many comments by Board members, it was agreed not to send the letter to the planning agencies yet and Kit Morgan was asked to make a presentation on the current NH rail plan and the DOT – proposed update to it at the next NHRTA meeting.

Next meeting: Friday, Oct. 23 @ 10 AM, LOB 201. NHDOT Commissioner George Campbell will provide an update on the NH Capitol Corridor project.

I 93 Comments

Peter Griffin reported on a public meeting in Derry recently held by the NHDOT that he attended. DOT reviewed their updated EIS for the I 93 widening project. Some of the public present suggested that the project be reduced to three lanes plus a rail corridor using the M&L line.

Peter suggested that we could better influence what happens on the M&L if we joined the Salem Chamber of Commerce for \$50 a year. The members present indicated support of this suggestion so a motion to do so was made and approved.

Other Business

Bill Remington reported that he got public relations info from Claire Zopf that she had prepared several years ago and he has given it to Jim Bull.

Bill also reported that several PanAm people have been hired by PanAm Southern because NS is not happy with progress on the Patriot Corridor project.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM

Next meeting: Monday, Oct. 26 @ 7 PM
Safety & Health Council
57 Regional Drive, Concord

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