



NH Railroad Revitalization Association

January 24, 2011

Tonight's meeting was called to order by President Peter Griffin at 7:05 PM at the Health and Safety Council in Concord.

Members:

Name	Town
Peter Griffin	Windham, NH
Tom Noel	New Boston, NH
Lenny McGee	Manchester, NH
Gary Kerr	Chichester, NH

Name	Town
Ken Milender	Warner, NH
Steve Piper	Dover, NH
Tom Manning	Manchester, NH
Gary Seneschal	Allenstown, NH

Attendees: Leo Boisoineault & Mike Wheeler (Laconia, NH), Jay Gadon (Concord)

October Minutes

The October 25, 2010 meeting minutes were accepted as written.

Treasurer's Report

Steve Flanders was not present, so no treasurer's report was available.

NH Capitol Corridor

In addition to the \$2.24 million commitment from the FRA and the \$1.9 million commitment from the FTA, an additional \$1.0 million from Governor Lynch's Capital Improvement Fund will be used to help leverage federal planning money. Current language of the fund must be modified to allow this, however. There is a concern with the new political environment, which may be disruptive to passenger rail initiatives. Representative Dan McGuire has sponsored a bill (HB 218) to eliminate the NH Rail Transit Authority and it has been referred to the House Transportation Committee. No hearing date has yet been set.

Downeaster Update

Ridership continues to be steady with monthly numbers continuing to outpace 2009. Steve Piper submitted ridership numbers for the NH stations. Work on the Brunswick extension is currently suspended for the winter, but NNEPRA has been able to obtain an additional \$3 million from federal sources to complete the project, which will allow the original state match to be used on other priorities. There is discussion about revisiting the idea of constructing a new Portland station down on Commercial Street to better serve the new northbound service

Other Business

- There will be a CMAQ meeting on Friday, January 28 at which grant requests to fund the MBTA expansion to Plaistow will be discussed. Confidence is high that this money will be awarded. The advisory committee will make this recommendation.
- NHDOT has hired a consultant, HDR, to update the state's rail plan pending Governor & Council approval.

- After minimal discussion it was decided that the new NHRRA membership cards would simply have the member's name and an expiration date shown. Steve Piper will follow up on making the modifications, getting them printed and distributed. Window decals are still in the works. Peter will contact Jim Bull for an update.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM

Next meeting: Monday, March 28, 2011 at 7 PM
Safety & Health Council
57 Regional Drive, Concord

Minutes by: Stephen R. Piper, Secretary