



NH Railroad Revitalization Association

May 21, 2007

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

Attendees:

Name	Town
Peter Griffin	Windham, NH
Tom Noel	New Boston, NH
Stephen Flanders	Weare, NH
Stephen Piper	Dover, NH
Winthrop Buswell	Loudon, NH
Gary Kerr	Chichester, NH

Name	Town
Dick Currier	Hopkinton, NH
Mark Richardson	Bedford, NH
Bill Remington	Concord, NH
George Katsakiores	Derry, NH
Claire Zopf	Concord, NH
Gus Sheedy	Derry, NH

April Minutes

The April 23 meeting minutes were approved with a few minor corrections.

Treasurer's Report

Steve Flanders reported the organization's account balance and stated that he paid \$46.00 for box rental.

NHRRRA Election Results

17 ballots were returned showing all listed candidates being elected to office for the next two-year term May 2007-April 2009. Steve Piper will maintain the ballots on file for a minimum of one year.

Nashua Commuter Rail Project

Updates for the Nashua Commuter Rail Advisory Committee can be found at <http://www.nhcommuterrail.com>. Senate Bill SB75 (to create a NH Rail Authority) passed 12-4 out of Committee as amended by Sierra Club language. House Transportation Committee Chair Jim Ryan retained the amendments that would seek to include representation from all cities and towns that might benefit from rail service on the Authority. The language will be reworked and voted on by the full House and then it will go back to the full Senate for a vote there. It should be noted that there is no funding associated with this bill.

Publicity

The May 2007 edition of New Hampshire To Do magazine has a good write-up on rail excursions in our state. NHRRRA is well represented in the article. NHRRRA Media Contact (and newly elected Representative) Mark Richardson is quoted in the article.

The Upper Valley Transportation Management Association is promoting alternatives to automobile travel through their website found at www.vitalcommunities.org.

Mark will contact Hippo Press to try to get some exposure on rail service included in their publication and will also write an Op Ed piece for the Union Leader.

Transit Study

Peter has contacted HNTB and found that they will soon be evaluating the data from the first round of public hearings. They have also been looking into bus service and performing the alternatives analysis. Lastly they are taking the land use and planning to the next level.

Boston/Montreal High Speed Project

The VT Agency of Transportation is still interested in pursuing high speed rail on the Northern corridor. They will be holding a meeting with NHDOT Bureau of Rail & Transit's Administrator Kit Morgan. PSNH is also interested in using the Northern for a potential unit train to the Bow power plant from the west.

Other Business

- The Business and industry Association (BIA) met on May 9. Peter spoke on regional updates and Nashua's Steve Williams spoke on the status of commuter rail.
- The Manchester Chamber of Commerce recently published a positive article on rail in their May 2007 newsletter.
- Winthrop is working on graphics for an NHRRA bumper sticker. Claire and Gary have been working on a decal for display and presentation to entice potential corporate memberships.
- Tom finally heard back from the IRS regarding lobbying. NHRRA must spend less than 5% of its time on legislative activities to maintain its status as a 501(c)(3) organization. He expects to receive a "declaratory statement" soon to confirm good standing. Tom also submitted documentation of NHRRA's legislative activities to date and registration materials with IRS Form 5768.
- June 13 is Rockingham Planning Commission's annual meeting at the Portsmouth Sheridan. NHDOT interim Commissioner Chuck O'Leary will be speaking.
- Bill submitted two notices of interest currently on the Federal Register. The first pertains to the Surface Transportation Board (STB) docket #35018 on the St. Lawrence & Atlantic Railroad in Maine and the second pertains to STB docket #35022, within which the New Hampshire Central Railroad wishes to operate on 8.77 miles of Mountain Division trackage from Whitefield to Gilman and interchange at Groveton.
- Steve Piper reported that Jan, Feb and Mar registered three consecutive months in which the NH ridership has been greater than 50% of the total Downeaster ridership.
- The original location for the planned Nashua station off Spitbrook Road will now be a shopping plaza. Despite attempts to accommodate a station within the shopping center concept, it isn't going to happen. City officials, the Commuter Rail Advisory Committee and other advocates say this isn't a huge setback as they are hoping other sizeable sites in south Nashua could work just as well.
- Gary has written a letter to NHDOT's Ram Maddali in response to the I-93 Transit Investment Study to promote rail service as a very viable option.
- Gary mentioned that the pending Goals and Objectives would be formalized in a report to be submitted at a future regular meeting. As nothing new has been offered by the membership at large to date, the G&O items reported previously will be considered as NHRRA's current agenda.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM

Next meeting: Monday, June 25, 2007 at 7 PM
 Safety & Health Council
 163 Manchester Street, Concord

Minutes by: Stephen R. Piper, Secretary