



NH Railroad Revitalization Association

January 28, 2008

Tonight's meeting was called to order by Bill Remington @ 7:05 PM at the Health and Safety Council in Concord.

Attendees:

Name	Town
Bill Remington	Concord, NH
George Katsakiores	Derry, NH
Dick Currier	Hopkinton, NH
Gus Sheedy	Derry, NH

Name	Town
Gary Kerr	Chichester, NH
Stephen Piper	Dover, NH
Lenny McGee	Manchester, NH
Winthrop Buswell	Loudon, NH

New Member:

Bill introduced and welcomed new member Dennis Grimes of Bedford, NH attending this evening.

December Minutes

The December 17, 2007 meeting minutes were accepted as written.

Treasurer's Report

Steve Flanders was not present, but Bill had contacted him and reported the organization's account balance.

HB 1404

Bill reported on the January 24 hearing on House Bill 1404 that was held at the Transportation Committee. HB 1404 is the proposed draft legislation that would require the New Hampshire Rail Transit Authority to secure and maintain a liability insurance policy for passenger rail service as introduced by Rep. Peter Leishman. The Committee decided to forward the bill on to the NH Supreme Court for a decision on constitutionality. Rep. Leishman does not feel the Supreme Court will rule against it due to other states' precedents. A date for this decision has not been determined but will be announced. The full Legislature (House and Senate) will have to vote on it to send it to the Supreme Court. If the bill fails, Amtrak would be the only option for operating passenger rail service as they are self-insured.

MOTION: To allow Bill Remington to speak informally with Peter Leishman to investigate involving the Conservation Law Foundation to bring an official brief forward in favor of passing the bill. All were in favor.

NH Rail Transit Authority

Winthrop read through the NHRTA's draft Prioritized Goals that were issued at the January 25th meeting (see attached). Mark Brewer, Manchester-Boston Airport Director, attended the meeting and stated that he wishes to include rail as part of the airport's master plan. Also, the MBTA has indicated that they are willing to assist NH in finding funding sources for the Lowell-Manchester passenger rail initiative.

MOTION: To contact members of the NHRTA representing the Downeaster corridor to investigate the benefits of drafting a support letter on NHRRA letterhead for the purposes of getting Downeaster and Vermonter funding on the list of prioritized goals. All were in favor.

Outreach

Winthrop spoke with the editor of Trains Magazine, who said they would be very interested in knowing what NHRRA is all about. He will follow up.

WMUR's NH Chronicle program is often looking for material and it was agreed that Bill Lord's video presentations on the Downeaster would be a great way to keep passenger rail service in the media. Steve will contact Bill to see if his video's would be available for such a purpose. Lenny mentioned that Manchester Community TV had a special last month that featured Director of Southern NH Planning Commission David Preece and commuter rail. The DVD of this program is available for \$20 and is something NHRRA should purchase for future presentations.

Bill Remington and Peter Griffin are investigating a speaking opportunity in Franklin, NH and the Laconia City Council is seeking a 2nd presentation.

Winthrop suggested that members can always go to the NHRRA web site to contact representatives and voice opinions.

Other Business

- George mentioned that Governor Lynch is a supporter of rail, but did not reference it in his January State Of The State Address.
- Bill attended a recent Concord Steam Company meeting where wood chips, and the 60 daily truck trips needed for delivery, were discussed. Bill suggested that rail would be a viable and better option. Another meeting is slated to be held on January 30th. Peter Bloomfield owns the company and mentioned that his operations, currently conducted from the NH State Hospital building, must be relocated by 2010.
- Bill also attended a Concord Master Plan meeting. The cofounder of Concord 20/20 spoke about the Clean Air Act and bringing passenger rail service to Concord.
- Winthrop suggested that Bill contact the Utah Transportation Authority to look at how they find funding resources.
- Gary questioned what the status is of the NHRRA bumper stickers that were being developed a few months ago. The printing companies being looked at did not have the capabilities to print bumper stickers, but Peter Griffin was looking into another printer in Manchester.
- Gary also introduced "Survey Monkey" as a web-based tool that anyone can use to promote a survey. He will draft rail related questions for review and comment and will submit them to the site.
[Example can be found at: http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=6CyOoggG5Eev4VKj7pYZRg_3d_3d]
- Dick inquired about holding a joint meeting with the Maine Rail Group. They are offering an excursion on the "Lower Road" from Rockland to Augusta on May 10 for \$50.
- Dick also mentioned that the New England Rail Forum & Expo will be held on March 25th at the Rhode Island Convention Center in Providence. This is a trade show and not generally geared toward railfans.
- Tom Noel submitted the completed 501(c)(3) package to the NH Dept. of Justice last week for NHRRA's renewal.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM

Next meeting: Monday, February 25, 2008 at 7 PM
Safety & Health Council
163 Manchester Street, Concord

Minutes by: Stephen R. Piper, Secretary