



NH Railroad Revitalization Association

March 24, 2008

Tonight's meeting was called to order by President Peter Griffin @ 7:10 PM at the Health and Safety Council in Concord.

Attendees:

Name	Town
Peter Griffin	Windham, NH
Bill Remington	Concord, NH
Paula Walach	Derry, NH
Sam Langley	Boscawen, NH

Name	Town
Dennis Grimes	Bedford, NH
Gary Kerr	Chichester, NH
Stephen Piper	Dover, NH
Steve Flanders	Weare, NH

February Minutes

The February 25 meeting minutes were accepted as written.

Treasurer's Report

Steve Flanders reported the organization's account balance. He reported no debits paid this month.

NH Rail Transit Authority

Bill attended the last NHRTA meeting held on March 21. He submitted a copy of the Authority's prioritized goals and reported on the following discussions:

- Downeaster ridership is up 20-25% over last year.
- State officials would like to formulate a committee with other states to investigate passenger rail and create a web site for such.
- Chairman Peter Burling reported that SB 396 (a bill intending to establish a statewide transportation policy) and SB 452 (a bill intending to integrate local, regional, and statewide transportation planning efforts) have both passed the Senate and are now going over to the House for consideration.
- Kathy Hersh (Nashua Director of Community Development) met with MBCR on the importance of the Lowell-Manchester extension. MBTA is willing to assist with the logistics as described in a letter to Governor Lynch from Bernard Cohen (attached). The Federal government would like to see state statutes be identical.
- The liability bill (HB 1404) passed the full House floor on a voice vote and now will go on to the Senate for consideration.
- Peter Burling volunteered Bill Remington to team up with Mike Izbiki (NHRTA) to formulate the logistics of the proposed commuter corridor (strategic passing track locations, signal upgrades, impacts to existing freight operations, etc.) and will utilize the existing track charts.
- NH will have to front money to upgrade the section of MBTA corridor located in Massachusetts.
- MBTA is planning to extend their current operation into Rhode Island 20 miles farther to service Providence.
- The NHRTA is proposing to begin assisting with the Downeaster's funding needs in FY 2009.
- The Manchester-Boston Regional Airport wishes to contribute 20% toward the costs of a Bedford train station and transfer operation that would service the airport.
- The next NHRTA meeting is scheduled for Friday, April 18 at 10 AM in LOB Room 305-307.

I-93 Hearings

Peter reported on hearings that were held last week. The NHDOT has amended their traffic increase forecasts from 35,000 new vehicles to just 4000. The highway's Level Of Service (please see attached) is currently "E" or "F", but will never be better than "C" according to their estimates.

Other Business

- Bill got the program DVD created by Charlie St. Clair that showcases the M&L corridor from Winthrop.
- Bill submitted a copy of "Drafted New Hampshire Law, New Title – Rail Corridors with Trails". Sam explained the language of the former and current RSA's as they relate to rail/trail corridors.
- Discussion took place on the potential relocation of MBTA's layover facility from Bradford to Plaistow. Neighbors of the existing facility have been complaining about noise and fumes and would like to see it moved out of town. Plaistow might have an area secluded enough to mitigate these concerns.
- Paula submitted an editorial excerpted from the Boston Business Journal titled "Fan Pier's parking fallout" (attached). She also commented on the recent NARP Region 1 meeting where they were pushing for the support of rail service from the younger generations. She then commented on her frustration with the Derry News and the Nutfield News, both of which were unwilling to publish her letters to the editors. She had attended a meeting and commented extensively on rail service to southern NH and none was mentioned in the write-up. She is convinced these media will not recognize rail service as being beneficial. Lastly, Paula submitted her ideas on amending SB 396 language that would seek to exempt green electric sources supplying power to the rail system from taxation and submitted a publication titled, "U.S. Electric Rail Transit vs. Motor Vehicles: Comparative Analysis of Energy Efficiency", authored by Lyndon Henry of the Capital Metropolitan Transportation Authority in Austin, Texas.
- Bill submitted an excerpt from Weekly Rail Review showing Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi's support for a national infrastructure bank (attached).
- Gary mentioned that many revisions to the rail survey have been made and once in its final form will be placed on our web site.
- Steve Piper noted that he has attempted to purchase a commuter rail documentary DVD from Manchester Cable TV, but that program was not readily located by MCTV.
- Steve also brought attention to an e-mail he received from an NHRRA member that described spam e-mail coming to his account he uniquely set up for NHRRA distributions. This is disturbing and reinforces the need for always communicating via blind copy (BCC) when e-mailing to multiple recipients. This has been this Secretary's policy for about the last two years, so this issue might have originated long ago.
- Steve Piper received an e-mail from Robert Tarr, who is seeking the NH State Representative seat in Dist 12 Ward 5 in Manchester. He has expressed interest in assisting NHRRA with public relations and political activism. Peter Griffin agreed to contact him.
- Peter Griffin said that he would review the bumper sticker situation and report on it at the next meeting.
- Bill displayed the aforementioned track charts at the close of this meeting.
- Silas Archibald and Nicholas Coates are two graduate students seeking to make presentations at one of our meetings. Peter has offered to invite them to our next meeting and will confirm the date.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM

Next meeting: Monday, April 28, 2008 at 7 PM
Safety & Health Council
163 Manchester Street, Concord

Minutes by: Stephen R. Piper, Secretary