



# NH Railroad Revitalization Association

July 28, 2008

Tonight's meeting was called to order by President Peter Griffin @ 7:00 PM at the Health and Safety Council in Concord.

## Attendees:

Name	Town
Peter Griffin	Windham, NH
Bill Remington	Concord, NH
Lenny McGee	Manchester, NH
Tom Noel	New Boston, NH
Nicholas Coates	Henniker, NH
Stephen Piper	Dover, NH
George Katsakiores	Derry, NH

Name	Town
Dennis Grimes	Bedford, NH
Gary Kerr	Chichester, NH
Gus Sheedy	Derry, NH
Steve Flanders	Weare, NH
Winthrop Buswell	Laconia, NH
Mark Richardson	Bedford, NH

**Visitors:** John Law (Farmington, NH) - Strafford County Planning Commission  
 Matt Caron (Londonderry, NH) - SNHRP  
 Candice Bouchard (Concord, NH) - State Representative, NHRTA Board Member  
 Jan Zicha (Lanham, MD) – Ray Rail, LLC  
 Anant Panwalkar (Concord, NH) – Nobis Engineering

## June Minutes

The June 23 meeting minutes were approved as submitted

## Treasurer's Report

Steve Flanders reported the organization's account balance. He reported a \$1000 payment to St. Anselm College and \$219 for printing costs for the rail forum.

## Rail Forum at St. Anselm College

On July 14 NHRRA sponsored the very successful and well-attended NH Rail Forum at the St. Anselm College Institute of Politics. Former Massachusetts Governor Mike Dukakis was the keynote speaker along with Peter Burling of the NHRTA, Patricia Quinn of NNEPRA and NHRRA's Mark Richardson. Mark and Nik Coates organized the event and summarized what NHRRA should plan to do to follow up.

Nik said that there should be an "interest aftermath" with newspaper articles to keep the momentum. He also mentioned he met with Bob Baccus today and will be meeting with Patricia Quinn next week and then the Business and Industry Association (BIA) as well as area chambers. He will use the economic development that has occurred in Lowell, MA as a comparison.

Mark mentioned that ideas about rail are finally being taken seriously. What was once an abstract idea in peoples' minds is now becoming a reality. We must get ourselves into a working group to figure out how to raise the necessary funds, determine actual costs, figure the federal match, look for state and local revenue sources and come up with a viable plan. We need to determine TIF zones, bonding sources and repayment schedules. NHRRA must continue outreach efforts and control the media. Tom mentioned that the NHRTA is already set up to determine funding sources – we just need to be in agreement.

Dennis recommended that we ensure the Massachusetts politicians are on board as much of the corridor is in their state. John stated that corridor zone regulations must be determined politically via planning boards. The entire

state must buy in. The rail service must be supported by local bus companies and east-west connections should be initiated. Matt suggested that now that Concord Trailways is moving out of Manchester to go to Exit 5, a new multi-modal system could go in to coordinate with local busses and taxis. The Manchester Transit Authority has had its funding cut for next year however.

The Rail Forum DVD has been developed and is now available on Google Videos in three parts.

Parsons-Brinckerhoff performed the original ridership study for the extension to Nashua. The model could be expanded to generate ridership for Concord.

Other discussions revolved around other initiatives, including freight operations to help pay into a revenue stream for passenger rail.

### **NH Rail Transit Authority**

Mark outlined what he sees as the appropriate tasks ahead for NHRTA and NHRRA and who might tackle those tasks:

	NHRTA	NHRRA
1) Engineering	Izbicki	Remington
2) Finance	Fed Match, Martha Fuller Clark	Richardson, Coates
3) Planning: Ridership, Stations, Enterprise, Tax Revenues	NHDOT Commissioner	John Law
4) Legislation	?	Katsakiores
5) Media	?	Coates
6) Private Enterprise: Bus, Pan Am, Developers, Airport	Robin Comstock? Chambers	Richardson

### **I-93 Transit Study**

The Londonderry Planning Board has asked Peter, Mark and Nik to discuss rail opportunities at the parcel of land south of the Manchester Airport.

### **Other Business**

Mark will be interviewed on WSMN radio on the morning of August 4

Jan Zicha gave input on development investment from sources overseas.

George suggested the need for a round-table discussion between the NHRRA, the Governor, the NHDOT Commissioner and the State's Treasurer.

Gary would still like to post his survey and is looking for places to place the link.

Bill recommended that the NHRRA request that the NHDOT Commissioner appropriate the funds necessary to fund the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of the Boston-Montreal High Speed Rail study (\$85,000).

Speaker at next meeting - Peter Griffin announced that since he missed tonight's meeting, Mike Izbicki (NHRTA Board member and rail consultant) would speak at our August meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM

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

Minutes by:                     Stephen R. Piper, Secretary