



# NH Railroad Revitalization Association

October 27, 2008

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

## Attendees:

Name	Town
Peter Griffin	Windham, NH
Bill Remington	Concord, NH
Stephen Flanders	Weare, NH
Tom Noel	New Boston, NH
Sam Langley	Boscawen, NH
George Katsakiores	Derry, NH

Name	Town
Dennis Grimes	Bedford, NH
Lenny McGee	Manchester, NH
Gus Sheedy	Derry, NH
Larry Ayer	Nashua, NH
Winthrop Buswell	Laconia, NH
Jim Bull	Windham, NH

**Visitors:** Patrick Paul Derby, VT (UNH)  
Andrew Langsner Dover, NH (UNH)  
Paul Regis Monroe, NH (UNH)  
Anant Panwalkar, PE Concord, NH (Nobis Engineering)

## September Minutes

The September 22 meeting minutes were approved as submitted.

## Treasurer's Report

Steve Flanders reported the organization's account balance. He also reported a \$75 payment to the State of New Hampshire for the filing fee to accompany our annual financial report to the NHDOJ.

## Visitors from UNH

Three students from UNH (Durham) told us that they're doing a project on rail for their engineering class. They would like to have their project make a contribution to the NH Capital Corridor Project. One of the issues they're considering is the proposed new rail station for downtown Manchester along with its traffic and social impacts. For them to make a contribution to the Capital Corridor project, NHRRA members recommended that they contact the Southern NH Planning Commission (David Preece/Exec.Dir. or Tim White/ Senior Planner) and the NH Rail Transit Authority (Sen. Peter Burling, Chmn. and Mike Izbiki, member of Exec. Committee). It was suggested that they attend the next meeting of the NHRTA on Nov. 21 to learn more about the Capital Corridor Project. Winthrop Buswell also encouraged them to contact the news media and politicians about their project.

## Transit Authority Update

Tom Noel attended their meeting on Oct. 20 and reported the following action items:

- (1) Exec. Committee – The Authority Board voted to establish an Exec. Comm. of 10 members. Ten Board members were nominated by Chairman Peter Burling – all nominations will be voted on at the next meeting.
- (2) Exec. Director – Chairman Burling stated that he didn't think the Authority could afford to wait for funding. He therefore proposed that they create a temporary interim (volunteer) Exec. Dir. Position and nominated Mike Izbiki to fill it. There was considerable discussion on the proposal and in the end it was decided to defer action on this until their meeting in order to provide time for their By-Laws Committee to

flesh out sections on the duties of the Exec. Dir. and the Exec. Committee and for Chmn Burling to consult with NHDOJ lawyers regarding conflict of interest and other issues in connection with the appointment of a NHRTA board member to be the interim volunteer Exec. Dir.

- (3) By-Laws – Discussion and action on the draft By-Laws was deferred until the next meeting in order for the By-Laws Committee to complete the sections on the Exec. Dir. and Exec. Committee.

The next meeting of the NHRTA is on Nov. 21 @ 10AM in LOB 305-307.

### **M&L Update (I-93 Transit Study)**

The draft I-93 Transit Study report recommends bus transit on the shoulder of the widened I-93 instead of rail on the M&L. The report (by the study consultant HNTB) says it was based primarily on cost. They estimate bus-on-shoulder cost to be 90 million and the M&L rail option to be 200 million. There was considerable discussion among the members present regarding the viability of the bus option. A Nashua Telegraph article states that the NHDOT supports the report recommendation – it was not known where Mass. stands on the report. The draft report is available on-line.

### **Other Business**

Bill Remington – Amtrak Reauthorization & Rail Safety Act was signed by Pres. Bush in mid-Oct. It includes requirement that the US DOT solicits proposals to improve rail in 11 previously designated high-speed corridors (includes Boston to Montreal via NH).

Bill said the word on the street is that NS may pull out of the Patriot Corridor project.

Bill also said Pan Am failed to give proper newspaper notice of their cancellation of the lease to New England Southern so they must start over. So NES will be operating under the lease a while longer.

Dennis Grimes – Agreed to draft letter to Howard Dean (Chairman of Dem. Party) about developing rail in northern New England.

Win Buswell – Stated that he had an ad for his paintings in the Dec. issue of Trains Magazine – it includes mention of NHRRA.

George Katsakiores – He recommended that NHRRA meet with Gov. Lynch on funding for NH rail projects.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM

Next meeting: Monday, November 24, 2008 at 7 PM  
Safety & Health Council  
163 Manchester Street, Concord

Minutes by: Tom Noel, Vice President