



NH Railroad Revitalization Association

December 22, 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
Tom Noel	New Boston, NH
Stephen Flanders	Weare, NH
Stephen Piper	Dover, NH

Name	Town
Dennis Grimes	Bedford, NH
Lenny McGee	Manchester, NH
Bill Remington	Concord, NH

November Minutes

The November 24 meeting minutes were amended and approved. Mike Izbicki had been nominated as Interim Chair of the Executive Committee.

Treasurer's Report

Steve Flanders reported the organization's account balance. He also reported a \$36.21 payment for printing costs.

NH Rail Transit Authority Update

Tom Noel reported that the NH Rail Transit Authority met on Dec. 19 at the NHDOT with Steve Williams as the Acting Chairman (necessitated by the resignation of Peter Burling from the Senate).

(1) Most of the meeting was taken up with a review and discussion of the draft NHRTA By-Laws prepared by Board member Tim Moore. A number of sections in the draft were deleted as dealing with subjects not appropriate for By-Laws. Also, the proposed Executive Committee was reduced from 11 to 9 members. A revised draft will be reviewed at the next meeting.

(2) There was a discussion led by Dave Hiltz, a lawyer from the NHDOJ, regarding the forthcoming contract for the Interim Executive Director. The bottom line is that there are still unresolved issues for the contract resulting from the fact that the person appointed to the position (Mike Izbicki) is also a member of the NHRTA Board and the fact that it is not clear to the NHDOJ whether or not that the NHRTA should be classified as a state agency. Dave Hiltz hopes to provide the Board with a resolution of these issues at their next meeting.

(3) Peter Burling attended the meeting and stated that he was very concerned about the indemnity issue. He said the Board and staff of all organizations such as the NHRTA should be indemnified against legal actions, but that the enabling legislation for NHRTA does not specifically provide this. Other Board members strongly agreed with him on this issue. Peter Burling said that he will try to get state legislation providing the necessary indemnity in the upcoming session.

The next regular meeting of the NHRTA Board is scheduled for 10 AM, Jan 16 however the location had not been determined.

Downeaster Update

Steve Piper reported that the Downeaster's NH ridership broke a new record in October at 24,278. November's ridership will likely show as down a bit, but the ice storm, power outages and equipment issues have really taken a toll on the December ridership. Dineen buses (Kittery) were hired to run routes.

Other Business

Tom reported that NHRRA is in good standing with the NHDOJ as 501(c)(3).

Bill reported that the MBTA proposal to relocate the Bradford layover facility to Plaistow is in the works, but not heavily publicized.

Bill also stated that Amtrak may now have the authority to begin fining host railroads that they operate on for delays and other lack of compliance.

The Downeaster's funding for the extension from Portland to Brunswick, Railroad Infrastructure Finance (RRIF), has been held up by the Bush administration.

Dennis contacted Doug Pearson of NSS Corp regarding shows he broadcasts on Bedford Cable TV. Dennis informed him of our monthly meeting time and suggested that NHRRA's Mark Richardson should be interviewed to give the organization's insight into the proposed Manchester Airport station. Mr. Pearson does think it would be an exciting opportunity to have a station on the Bedford side of the river. The economic opportunities would be great. Peter added that Manchester cable TV will also be looking for interviews after January 1.

Dennis said upon dropping his daughter off for work he has noted that 1/3 of all vehicles (not including drop-offs) at the Billerica MBTA station are from NH.

Lenny submitted a copy of the Manchester Express Newspaper that included an article on a potential site for an intermodal station adjacent to the Fisher Cats stadium (Rockwell site).

Bill brought in a copy of rail legislation in progress (as distributed by Gary Kerr). He will follow up with Peter Leishman,

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM

Next meeting: Monday, January 26, 2009 at 7 PM
Safety & Health Council
163 Manchester Street, Concord

Minutes by: Stephen R. Piper, Secretary