



NH Railroad Revitalization Association

March 28, 2011

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

Members:

Name	Town
Peter Griffin	Windham, NH
Tom Noel	New Boston, NH
Lenny McGee	Manchester, NH
Steve Flanders	Weare, NH
Sam Langley	Boscowen, NH
Gary Kerr	Chichester, NH

Name	Town
Winthrop Buswell	Laconia, NH
Steve Piper	Dover, NH
Tom Manning	Manchester, NH
Leo Boisoneault	Laconia, NH
Mike Wheeler	Laconia, NH
Gary Seneschal	Allenstown, NH

January Minutes

The January 24 meeting minutes were accepted as written.

Treasurer's Report

Steve Flanders reported the organization's account balance and stated that \$35.99 had been paid out for membership card printing.

State Rail Plan

The first meeting of the technical advisory committee for the development of the state's rail plan was held last week. About 40 people attended. Peter Griffin attended to represent NHRRA. There are concerns about rail corridors being converted into trails. Lenny submitted an overview of the process and mentioned that two public hearings will be taking place in early April.

NARP Region 1

This year's annual meeting was held in Boston and was well attended. Ross Capon gave lucid remarks and stated his dissatisfaction with DC politics. Al Engel (HSR for Amtrak) also spoke. The NJ Governor canceled the tunnel project, so all appropriated funds will now go back to the FRA. Amtrak instead plans to build a tunnel connecting with NY Penn Station that will be called the "Gateway Project" (if funding comes through).

NHRTA

Tom Noel attended the March 25 meeting, which was chaired by Kathy Hersh. The FTA planning grant is moving ahead. The NHDOT is putting out a request for letters of interest. Pan Am Railways has negotiated with MBTA to give trackage rights up to Concord as part of a larger Lechmere Station renovation project scheme. The Senate hearing for HB 218 to eliminate the NHRTA is scheduled for this Thursday, March 31 at 1:00 PM at the LOB, Senate Transportation Committee.

Downeaster Update

Steve Piper reported that January and February ridership numbers were almost identical to those months of 2010. Work on the Freeport/Brunswick extension has resumed. Exeter will be using Transportation

Enhancement (TE) funds for renovating the existing baggage building into the planned indoor waiting area and welcome center.

NHRRA Elections

A request for interest needs to go out to the full membership soon for anyone looking to hold office. Once names have been gathered, a ballot will then be sent out and returned in time for a vote at the next meeting on May 23.

Other Business

- Massachusetts is going after Florida's HSR money to replace the Merrimack River bridge between Haverhill and Bradford and to restore service to Fall River.
- Plaistow has received CMAQ money for planning and construction of a new MBTA layover facility.
- NHRRA's webmaster Matt Cosgro is resigning. The attendees wish to thank him for all his hard work and dedication getting the site to what it is today and for maintaining it these past few years. Gary Kerr has offered to take over as the new webmaster.
- Irving Oil has opened a new transloading facility for heating fuel in West Lebanon.
- Win reported that 1/3 of stimulus funding goes to rail development. Rail and their economy go hand in hand.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM

Next meeting: Monday, May 23, 2011 at 7 PM
Safety & Health Council
57 Regional Drive, Concord

Minutes by: Stephen R. Piper, Secretary