



# NH Railroad Revitalization Association

January 22, 2007

Tonight's meeting was called to order by Tom Noel at 7:05 PM at the Safety & Health Council.

## Attendees:

Name	Town
Tom Noel	New Boston, NH
Stephen Flanders	Weare, NH
Stephen Piper	Dover, NH
Dick Currier	Hopkinton, NH
George Katsakiores	Derry, NH

Name	Town
Gus Sheedy	Derry, NH
Bill Remington	Concord, NH
Sam Langley	Boscawen, NH
Dick Joos	Hopkinton, NH
Gary Kerr	Chichester, NH

**Visitor:** Lenny McGee (retired B&M dispatcher)

## December Minutes

The December 18, 2006 minutes were accepted as written.

## Treasurer's Report

Steve Flanders reported the organization's account balance. He also reported recent activity including two dues renewals and another \$125.00 in commissions received from Winthrop generated by the sale of his artwork.

## Legislative Action Committee Update

Dick reported that the NHRRA Legislative Action Committee recently met with a lobbyist to get a feel for benefits and costs associating with hiring him to work on behalf of NHRRA. He offered two proposals for consideration – 1) a full scale lobbying effort that would involve going to and speaking at Legislative Committee hearings and 2) a partial effort intended only to monitor the events taking place within the NH Legislature for a period of 5 months. The first option would be very costly and likely not within the budget of NHRRA and the second would cost about \$2000. As even the second option would greatly impact the funds of the organization, this committee will make the recommendation to not hire the lobbyist at this time.

In response to earlier questions regarding the legality of a 501(c)(3) organization hiring a lobbyist, Tom quoted language from the IRS, "*The organization shall not try to influence legislation as a substantial part of its activities.*" It was decided that further discussion with the Attorney General's Office must take place to ascertain just what NHRRA's restrictions are and Tom agreed to follow up with his contact the Dept. of Justice.

Sam submitted two proposed amendments to Article 6a that are scheduled to be heard this week. CACR3, sponsored by Rep. Phyllis Lockwood, would seek to allow Highway Trust Fund revenues to also be spent on "railways". CACR4, sponsored by S. Merrick, would seek to allow Highway Trust Fund revenues to also be spent on "transit". Sam also submitted a somewhat related bill, HB 103, sponsored by Rep. Bouchard, which would form a commission to study the Highway Trust Fund.

Bill submitted his most current draft language for rewriting Article 6a that would call for distributing revenue from all transportation sources to all public transportation needs. He and Peter Griffin are scheduled to meet with Peter Burling (NH State Senate) on Wednesday.

## **M&L Update**

Salem selectmen have voted to protect the corridor Right of Way within the town limits by letting it be paved for use as a rail-trail.

The consultant on the bi-state transit study has released their first report (dated Nov 2006) and this has been distributed to NHRRA members. It basically only shows the scope of the study and obviously has no tangible results at this point.

George commented that current NHDOT maps of the I-93 expansion do not specifically show a proposed median rail corridor. Tom Irwin (CLF) has requested another meeting with NHRRA to discuss proposed legislation.

## **Other Business**

The Conservation Law Foundation has a new local director to replace Nancy Girard.

NH Audubon is conducting a series of forums in Laconia on Smart Growth. Peter has requested to be a part of one of them.

Gary reported that the Goals and Objectives Committee has been formed and has been communicating via e-mail. They expect to have a draft Mission Statement by the next meeting. Tom will furnish documents previously submitted for 501(c)(3) registration.

Bill reported that there is a new excursion railway called the Silver Lake Railroad. It will be operating on part of the abandoned segment of the Conway Branch near the Madison station.

Gus mentioned that former NHRRA president Paul Chapman has old NHRRA records and wishes to transfer them from his home. Dick Currier will look into moving them to the Northfield Freight House, even if it is to be a temporary measure.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM

Next meeting:     Monday, February 26, 2007 at 7 PM  
                          Safety & Health Council  
                          163 Manchester Street, Concord

Minutes by:                               Stephen R. Piper, Secretary