



# NH Railroad Revitalization Association

March 26, 2007

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

## Attendees:

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

Name	Town
Gary Kerr	Chichester, NH
Bill Remington	Concord, NH
Lenny McGee	Manchester, NH
Mark Richardson	Bedford, NH
Gus Sheedy	Derry, NH
Claire Zopf	Concord, NH

## February Minutes

The February 26, 2007 minutes were accepted as written.

## Treasurer's Report

Steve Flanders reported the organization's account balance. He then stated that he has received two new memberships via the web site and has paid \$29.55 for printing costs.

## Goals & Objectives Committee

Gary submitted a draft outline of the committee's proposed goals and objectives for review and consideration. The document includes a vision statement, a mission statement, strategic goals and key individual rail initiatives. The draft was accepted by tonight's attendees with some additions and one amendment. It was mutually agreed that the amended draft should be submitted to the general membership for comments prior to its final acceptance. Steve Piper agreed to attach it to the minutes for distribution.

## Public Relations

Mark reported on two initiatives he has underway. The first is a meeting set for March 27 with Dean Kamen's attorney to discuss the potential benefits of returning passenger rail service to Manchester. If the meeting goes well, Mr. Kamen will offer his name to be used in support of the project. Mark discussed some of the concerns he will bring forth to the meeting regarding limitations that the current proposal contains and made some suggestions as to what improvements NHRRA should offer to help ensure the project's success. He reiterated that the organization at this point should continue to support this specific proposal with well thought out requests for improvements.

The University of NH recently performed a study that resulted in overwhelming support for the return of passenger rail service to central NH and also to create a Rail Authority to oversee operations thereof.

The second is providing regular news update articles for the Manchester Daily Express and then for the Hippo Press. He anticipates an article appearing approximately every 2-3 weeks. He has also responded to a request from NHtoDo magazine to feature NHRRA in one of its upcoming publications.

## **Transit Study**

Peter submitted a copy of a letter written by Ram Maddali of the NHDOT that was written to invite NHRRA to serve on a newly created Stakeholder Group. This group has been established to provide input to the project study, specifically the alternatives analysis. Peter will plan to attend the first meeting scheduled for March 28. Peter also submitted a copy of an e-mail he received from Marcy Miller of Fitzgerald & Halliday, Inc. notifying of two upcoming I-93 Transit Investment Study meetings scheduled for April 10 and 11. Information on this project study can be found at [www.i93transit.org](http://www.i93transit.org).

## **Elections**

Tom informed tonight's attendees that the (2-year cycle) elections for NHRRA offices are due to be held again this May. The offices of President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary and two Representatives are all offered. Per NHRRA Bylaws, nominations are required in March. Gary Kerr and Dick Currier offered to act as a Nominating Committee and will draft a letter requesting those individuals interested in holding office to contact them prior to the April 23, 2007 meeting such that a ballot can be compiled at that time. Steve Piper will distribute the nomination letter with the minutes.

## **Other Business**

Gus has received a letter from the late John Palmer's attorney saying that his personal railroad documents have been deemed useless by his survivors and have been consequently thrown away. It is not known at this time if John had any NHRRA documents included in that lot, but Gus intends to follow up with his brother.

Tom has still not heard back from his contact at the Dept. of justice regarding NHRRA's level of lobbying being in conflict with the requirements of 501(c)(3), but he expects that it is inconsequential.

George mentioned that the I-93 widening project, while starting out a projected cost of \$35M, is now expected to cost \$718M. He also submitted a public hearing notice for the breakdown of annual costs associated with the Manchester transit system.

Tom reported that at the last SNHRPC meeting the NHDOT was urging them to pare back initiatives due to a financial crunch and it is likely that all RPCs are being given the same advice.

George reported that this week bills cross over from the House to the Senate and vice versa. HB311 (the bill to form a study group on liability caps) was voted out of the Transportation Committee as "ought to pass as amended". The amendment simply changes the language from liability "caps" to liability "issues". This will be heard by the full House on Tuesday, March 27. It should be noted that the Trial Lawyers Association supports this bill. The Finance Committee is working on a bill to increase the gasoline tax.

Bill submitted a NHDOT document showing the status of all highway bridges along the Northern Branch. He also submitted an article that details the Winnisquam-Opechee-Winnipisaukee recreational trail that runs from Laconia to Lakeport.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM

Next meeting:     Monday, April 23, 2007 at 7 PM  
                          Safety & Health Council  
                          163 Manchester Street, Concord

Minutes by:                                       Stephen R. Piper, Secretary