



NH Railroad Revitalization Association

April 23, 2007

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

Attendees:

Name	Town
Peter Griffin	Windham, NH
Tom Noel	New Boston, NH
Gary Kerr	Chichester, NH
Gus Sheedy	Derry, NH
Winthrop Buswell	Loudon, NH

Name	Town
Dick Currier	Hopkinton, NH
Lenny McGee	Manchester, NH
Bill Remington	Concord, NH
George Katsakiores	Derry, NH
Claire Zopf	Concord, NH

March Minutes

The March 26 meeting minutes were approved with a few minor corrections.

Treasurer's Report

There was no report since the Treasurer was not in attendance.

I-93 Transit Study

Peter Griffin and Bill Remington attended and reported on two recent public meetings to hear public sentiment. The first was held on Apr. 10 in Methuen, MA with approximately 25 attendees. They were generally positive about the restoration of rail service. The second was on Apr. 11 in Derry with approximately 40 attendees, which were mostly negative about rail service. At the Derry meeting, Sen. LeTourneau and others were only interested in talking about getting I-93 widened.

Nashua Commuter Rail Project

Peter Griffin reported that the Nashua station site at the old Dow Chemical plant has fallen through - it will be developed as a mall. A new site has been proposed near Furniture World which is near Exit ? of the Everett Turnpike.

There was a discussion of the public hearing to be held the next day (Apr. 24) on SB 75 (the rail authority bill) by the House Transportation Committee. Bill Remington reported the Sierra Club planned to propose extensive amendments at the hearing but that Rep. Ryan, chairman of the committee, told him that doing so could put the fate of the bill in jeopardy. Hearing this, it was the consensus of the members present that the NHRRA should not support the Sierra Club amendments at the hearing. Peter Griffin said he could not attend the hearing so Tom Noel said he would attend and provide brief NHRRA testimony supporting SB 75.

Meeting with Manchester CC and NH BIA

Peter Griffin and Mark Richardson met recently with Robin Comstock and Michele Skelton of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce and Jim Roche and Dave Juvet, Pres. and VP respectively of the NH Business and Industry Association to discuss their interest in and support of commuter rail coming to NH. Comstock and Skelton said that the Manchester C of C is very supportive of commuter rail service to Manchester. Roche and Juvet said that the BIA doesn't know enough yet about commuter rail to support a particular project but are willing to work on education and outreach. They invited Peter and Mark to give a presentation to the BIA Economic Development Subcommittee on May 9.

I-93 Plan for Concord

A public meeting was held in Concord on Apr. 17 to discuss proposed changes for the corridor from I-89 Jct. north to I-393. Bill Remington attended the meeting and reported that the consultant hired by NHDOT stated that the preferred alternative at this time was to move and depress I-93 in the downtown area a 100 or so ft. to the west. At the suggestion of a member, Peter will invite Roger Hawke, Concord Planning Director and Sharon Wasson, Exec. Dir. of the Central NH Planning Commission to speak to the NHRRA about their ideas for the I-93 corridor in Concord.

Other Business

Northern Line - Bill Remington reported that he attended a meeting on Apr. 5 at which NHDOT presented options to taking down rail bridges over highways.

Boston/Montreal High Speed Project - Peter Griffin reported that he had e-mailed Scott Bascomb, VT Agency of Transportation, asking what interest they have in reviving the study of this project.

NHRRA Elections - Gary Kerr, chairman of the nominations committee, reported that five of the six Executive Board positions had nominees, which were the incumbents with one Representative position without a nominee. Peter Griffin said that he thought that Mark Richardson desired to be a nominee for a Representative position and Gary said he would contact Mark regarding his interest. Bill Remington then said he will be a nominee for one of the Representative positions.

Corporate Membership - Claire Zopf proposed the idea of a corporate membership. Peter asked her to make a specific proposal at the next meeting.

SNHPC/TAC Meeting - Tom Noel reported that at the Apr. 19 meeting, the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) for the MPO for FY 08 and 09 was presented and discussed. In this Program, the SNHPC has made the commitment to hire a consultant to do the FTA-required New Starts Alternatives Analysis for the Nashua/Manchester commuter rail project.

Bumper Sticker - Winthrop Buswell said that he would design a NHRRA decal to be used as a bumper sticker.

Before adjournment, Peter Griffin noted that our regular meeting date in May falls on Memorial Day. He asked if meeting the week before (May 21) would be agreeable and no objections were made.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM

Next meeting: Monday, **May 21, 2007** at 7 PM
 Safety & Health Council
 163 Manchester Street, Concord

Minutes by: _____ Thomas M. Noel, Vice - Pres.