



NH Railroad Revitalization Association

July 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
Stephen Flanders	Weare, NH
Stephen Piper	Dover, NH
Winthrop Buswell	Loudon, NH
Gary Kerr	Chichester, NH

Name	Town
Gus Sheedy	Derry, NH
Lenny McGee	Manchester, NH
Bill Remington	Concord, NH
George Katsakiores	Derry, NH
Claire Zopf	Concord, NH

Visitors: John Chaplin and Mary Martin of Nottingham, NH

June Minutes

The June 25 meeting minutes were accepted as written.

Treasurer's Report

Steve Flanders reported the organization's account balance and stated that he has received several dues renewals totaling \$482 and has paid out \$65.42 for printing and mailing costs.

Status of Transportation Dept.

Interim NHDOT Commissioner has issued a report on the dire state of the Department's resources. It appears that revenues are falling short to the point where the current 10-year Highway Plan will take 35 years to complete. Some increase in revenues, whether by raising tolls or gasoline taxes or both, will be necessary to maintain the current level of reconstruction. Peter submitted a State House article (attached).

NH Rail Authority

The Governor is expected to sign SB75 on July 27, allowing for the creation of the NH Rail Authority to become law. The time and place will be announced (via Bill Remington). Appointments to the Board of Directors from each community will likely follow. Jim Repass (National Corridors Initiative) is expected to be present for the signing.

Northern Line

Bill and Claire reported on the status of the Northern Line. It was purchased by the State of NH in 1994 and is currently listed in the NH Rail Plan. There is an NHRRA initiative underway to seek out a company, who would rehabilitate and operate a portion of the line.

Other Business

- Bill submitted an article from the Concord Monitor that discussed the fact that people are starting to move out of the area due to its lack of transportation.
- Tom received a letter from the Council on Fundraising. They specialize in nonprofit fundraising efforts and membership provides connections and coordination. The cost is \$90 per year for one member and \$120 for two. He will investigate into it further.
- Claire submitted an updated bumper sticker and corporate member sign that include revisions based upon the feedback received at the June meeting and will get cost estimates for printing. She also submitted a new "Support Passenger Rail" solicitation sign. Win suggested placing this sign in area newspapers as is.
- Claire asked if there were any way to place a survey on the web site that would include an on-line calculator for determining the cost difference between one's commute by car vs. train. Steve Piper will ask Matt Cosgro. Mr. Chaplin suggested targeting the potential users and stakeholders. Show the cost savings.
- The 5th Downeaster round-trip is scheduled to commence Aug 17. The will now be an 8 PM departure out of Portland and an 11 PM return from Boston daily.
- Win referenced the UNH Survey Center, which has shown commuters would take the train when it becomes available. There are 28,500 potential NH riders for the Manchester/Nashua-Boston service.
- Bill submitted an article from Boston.com dated July 15 entitled "Railway revival a step closer to reality". This can be found at:
http://www.boston.com/news/local/articles/2007/07/15/railway_revival_a_step_closer_to_reality/.

He also submitted a Union Leader article dated July 11 entitled "Widening of I-93 in slow lane" and this can be found at:
<http://www.unionleader.com/pda-article.aspx?articleId=6e178bb9-00e5-4158-b9a2-3482fc57501c>.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM

Next meeting: Monday, August 27, 2007 at 7 PM
Safety & Health Council
163 Manchester Street, Concord

Minutes by: _____ Stephen R. Piper, Secretary