



# NH Railroad Revitalization Association

October 22, 2007

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

## Attendees:

Name	Town
Peter Griffin	Windham, NH
Tom Noel	New Boston, NH
Bill Remington	Concord, NH
Stephen Piper	Dover, NH
Stephen Flanders	Weare, NH

Name	Town
Gus Sheedy	Derry, NH
Dick Currier	Hopkinton, NH
Winthrop Buswell	Loudon, NH
George Katsakiores	Derry, NH
Gary Kerr	Chichester, NH

## September Minutes

The September 24 meeting minutes were accepted as written.

## Treasurer's Report

Steve Flanders reported the organization's account balance and noted no dues receipts since his last report.

## NH Rail Authority

The first meeting of the NH Rail Authority took place on Thursday, September 27 and the second on October 18. Tom Noel attended and reported on the discussions of each. The group decided to meet on the third Thursday on every month. Senator Burling was elected as Chairperson and Steve Williams of Nashua regional Planning was elected Vice Chair.

At the October meeting, Steve Pesci of Durham gave a slideshow presentation on the Downeaster service and Steve Williams gave an update on the Lowell to Manchester service (attached). Basically, the shuttle train concept from Manchester to MBTA at Lowell, MA is no longer being discussed, rather service that would provide a one-seat ride to Boston is favored. Ad hoc committees were formed to develop a mission statement, negotiate with Pan-Am Ry, liaison with all interested agencies and investigate liability issues. Kit Morgan [NHDOT Bureau of Rail & Transit Administrator] spoke about the report due November 1, but was not sure that it would include any draft legislation. It was determined that the best way to approach funding for rail projects would be to go directly to the congressional delegation.

Bill also attended the meeting and added that there was discussion on Plaistow and Portsmouth, but the Hampton Branch and Kittery were excluded. He also noted that the Durham station is undergoing a rehabilitation effort with site work underway [roundabout for bus turnaround]. Senator Burling wants to maintain close neighbors with VT and MA and wants to go to the Governor to seek grant money for both rail projects and the rail authority itself. Every community representative has now been appointed. Bylaws are soon to be drafted.

Their next meeting is scheduled for November 15.

## MA/NH Transit Study

Peter stated that the consultant is currently undertaking an engineering study on the M&L. The two options are apparently still on the table, M&L and the I-93 corridor. Freight is a major contributing factor to the corridor decision. Peter will furnish the next meeting date and will have it posted on the NHRRA web site. Win mentioned that there exists a very interesting video on the M&L by Charlie St. Clair.

## October 11 Rail Summit

Peter and Bill attended this meeting down in Massachusetts and found it be very positive. The following highlight the event:

- Senator Peter Burling and Kit Morgan attended, as did the MA Deputy Commissioner of Transportation.
- There exists a wish to create a New England compact.
- Need to revive the New England Governor's Conference and include eastern Canadian premiers (these meetings were curtailed during the Benson and Romney administrations. NH & MA stopped paying dues).
- Canada was also represented and spoke on the High Speed Rail initiative.
- The president of the Providence & Worcester Railroad spoke.

### Other Business

Tom will meet with AARP this week and report at the next meeting

Dick reported on the Rte 113 Mountain Division corridor study that is looking at both freight and passenger rail potentials to Whitefield and St. Johnsbury, VT. The NH Portion is owned by the State with the exception of Conway Scenic, who owns the trackage segment from Intervale to Conway.

Win spoke with Peter Dearness of New England Southern and suggested that people contact Mel Clements of the Surface Transportation Board in support of NEGS and it's operations.

Bill sent a letter to Executive Councilor Ray Burton (in response to a meeting they had with Peter and Win) to intercede and support funding for Phase 2 of the High Speed Rail study.

Tom attended a meeting with the Southern NH Technical Advisory Committee. Their FY 2008 Transportation Improvement Plan included several cutbacks.

Tom stated that NHRRA's \$75 annual renewal fee for registration with the NH DOJ is due November 15.

New England Southern's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration will be held on October 20

The Laconia City Council meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday evening of each month. They are in favor of rail service and would like NHRRA to come speak at one of their meetings.

The December meeting will be held on the 17<sup>th</sup> to avoid conflicting with holidays.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM

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

Minutes by: Stephen R. Piper, Secretary