



NH Railroad Revitalization Association

November 26, 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
Dick Currier	Hopkinton, NH
Bill Remington	Concord, NH
Stephen Piper	Dover, NH

Name	Town
Gary Kerr	Chichester, NH
Lenny McGee	Manchester, NH
Mark Richardson	Bedford, NH
Winthrop Buswell	Loudon, NH

October Minutes

The October 22 meeting minutes were accepted as written.

Treasurer's Report

Steve Flanders was not present. No treasurer's report was available.

MA/NH Transit Study

Peter reported that the Technical Advisory Committee has now narrowed the options from 6 to 2 – the M&L being the first and a bus service operating on a dedicated shoulder of I-93 being the second. In Massachusetts, the shoulders of the highway are already being utilized for all traffic during periods of heavy traffic. According to the engineering study performed on the M&L, there are no insurmountable or legal obstacles, impacts or encroachments that would eliminate the possibility of reestablishing the rail corridor. Proposed station stops would likely include the Manchester Airport, Derry, Salem, Methuen, Lawrence and Boston North Station. The new Director of the airport Mark Brewer is in favor of a rail link. Estimated cost of construction is \$160m including double tracking the Wildcat Branch

NH Rail Authority

Bill attended the November 15 meeting and reported that there were 16 members present. A draft mission statement was presented. Chairman Peter Burling expects to send a letter to Governor Lynch requesting that they meet with rail executives from Massachusetts to coordinate efforts. Pan-Am Railway has now expressed interest in reconstructing the line Manchester to Lowell and is backing away from being an operator of the passenger service. On the Boston-Portland route Plaistow is still addressing having a commuter stop. Peter Leishman has filed a bill on the capping the liability insurance requirements.

Other Business

Tom has filed for an extension with the NH Dept. of Justice for renewing the NHRRA's certification pending getting all financial records in order.

Mark informed the group that Nick Oakes, a graduate student at Northeastern University, is doing his thesis on how to get passenger rail back into New Hampshire. Former Massachusetts Governor Mike Dukakis is his professor.

Dick reported that New Hampshire Central has completed the reconstruction of the two miles of track between Lancaster and Jefferson. The north country economy is not good with the closing of the Groveton paper mill.

Steve reported on the Downeaster's NH ridership. September's monthly numbers broke a record at 16,985 only to be shattered by October's monthly ridership of 19,109. Total NH ridership to date is 694,440. Total Downeaster corridor ridership to date is 1,759,876. Also, NNEPRA has contracted with C&J to operate a weekday Downeaster bus that now departs Dover at 5:30 AM and stops at Durham, Exeter, Hampton (Park & Ride) and Boston North Station. The return trip departs Boston at 3 PM.

The Diesel Multiple Units (DMU) are beginning to lose popularity as a future equipment option for Amtrak's Vermonter.

Winthrop rode Executive Councilor Ray Burton's train in October and reported the train was packed.

Peter reported that the Town of Londonderry is embarking on a new master plan. Their plan should push to include a rail stop at the back side of the airport.

Peter will be speaking on the evening of Monday, December 10 at the Laconia City Council.

The December meeting will be held on the 17th to avoid conflicting with the holiday.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM

Next meeting: Monday, **December 17**, 2007 at 7 PM
 Safety & Health Council
 163 Manchester Street, Concord

Minutes by: Stephen R. Piper, Secretary