

New Hampshire Rail Transit Authority

Chair: Peter Burling
Vice Chair: Katherine Hersh

Meeting
July 10, 2009, 10:00 am
NH DOT, Room 114
(John O. Morton Building, 7 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH)

Attendees: Representative Mary Allen, Representative Candace Bouchard, Kerrie Diers, Kathy Hersh, Representative Sandra Keans, Nancy Larson, Tom Mahon, Tim Moore, Kit Morgan, Ron O'Blenis, Stephen Pesci, David Preece, Ted Starkweather, Malcolm Taylor, Christine Walker, Bruce Woodruff

I. Call to Order

Vice-Chair Hersh called the meeting to order at 10:08 am

II. Public Input – *Members of the public wishing to will be given an opportunity to address the NHRTA Board.*

James Vayo of Nashua, NH, addressed the Board. He asked who will own the right of way underneath the tracks once the project is built. Hersh stated that the rail right of way is owned by Pan Am Rail. Vayo asked what protection the public has if costly infrastructure is built on the right of way and PAR discontinues service. Vayo stated that PAR has a conflict of interest, and they would get a windfall. He recommended putting a lien for the cost of improvements on the right of way or protecting the public investment.

III. Minutes – *Minutes of the June 26, 2009*

Representative Allen moved to approve the minutes of June 26, 2009, which was seconded by Ted Starkweather. The motion was approved with one abstention.

IV. Update on Grant Process

Kathy Hersh provided an update on the grant process. The pre-application is due today. We have been working with TranSystems to put together the applications. The final application is due August 24, 2009. Peter Burling and

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Mike Izbicki raised \$121,000 of private funds and the Nashua Regional Planning Commission contracted with TranSystems to write the applications.

We will be submitting two applications: the project application for Phase 1, which is the \$300 million for upgrade of the line from Lowell – Concord, and the \$5 million Phase 2 planning application for the section north of Concord to White River Junction.

V. Committee Updates

Public Relations Committee: Christine Walker has developed a list of media for press releases. She is working on developing a list serve that people will be able to sign up for from the website. Kathy stated that our goal is to have a list serve that the public can sign up for to receive notifications of meetings. Kathy thanked those who provided comments on the website.

VI. Logo and Business Cards

Christine Walker stated that the committee will be creating the contest and criteria for the NHRTA logo. Kathy asked if it will be ready for the August 14th agenda. Christine said yes. Kathy said that the purpose of the contest is to increase public awareness of the authority and to increase public involvement.

VII. Other Discussion

Steve Pesci commented that the Board is aware of the issue of public investment on private property. A model for this already exists in NH on the Boston – Portland line. One other comment is that this process is very competitive but we must find a way to support neighboring state applications as we move forward. Kathy Hersh agreed that we all feel strongly about the regional approach and the direction we are taking in that regard.

Tim Moore praised the work of the UNH students who conducted the Rail Station feasibility study in Merrimack. Tim submitted a letter to the Board proposing an amendment to the bylaws in order to address the issue of resignation and replacement of officers. Kathy Hersh thanked Tim and asked that if there are additional changes, to let members of the Executive Committee know.

VIII. Non-public session

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Representative Allen moved to enter non-public session under RSA 91-A:3, II. (d) Consideration of the acquisition, sale, or lease of real or personal property which, if discussed in public, would likely benefit a party or parties whose interests are adverse to those of the general community. The motion was seconded by David Preece.

Barbara Pressley of Nashua, challenged the basis of the non-public session. She stated that there is no need for a private session as the parties and property in question are known and their interests are known. Bill Remington also challenged the basis of the non-public session.

Kathy Hersh asked the Secretary for a roll-call:

Representative Mary Allen – Yes
Representative Candace Bouchard – No
Kerrie Diers – Yes
Kathy Hersh – Yes
Representative Sandra Keans – No
Nancy Larson – Yes
Tom Mahon – Yes
Tim Moore – Yes
Kit Morgan – Yes
Ron O’Blenis – Yes
Stephen Pesci – Yes
David Preece – Yes
Ted Starkweather – Yes
Malcolm Taylor – Yes
Christine Walker – Yes
Bruce Woodruff – Yes

11:00 Entered non-public session

11:40 Hersh resumed public session

Bruce Woodruff made a motion to seal the minutes of the non-public session indefinitely. He noted no decisions were made. The motion was seconded by Representative Allen. The motion carried with one opposed.

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IX. Adjourn

David Preece moved to adjourn, seconded by Representative Allen.

Discussion:

Representative Bouchard asked if the issue of operating funding would be addressed on a future agenda. Kathy Hersh stated that it could be on the August 17 agenda. If there are any formal agreements, they would have to be approved by the NHRTA.

The meeting location may be in the regular rooms at the Legislative Office Building for July and August. Kathy asked those in attendance to check the website for further details.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kerrie Diers

Next Meetings:

July 24, 2009	August 14, 2009	September 11, 2009
	August 28, 2009	September 25, 2009