

NEW HAMPSHIRE RAIL TRANSIT AUTHORITY  
FULL BOARD MEETING of 20 FEBRUARY, 2015

Minutes (draft)

Lacking a quorum, unable to approve the minutes of the last meeting held on 23 January, 2015.

Updates on Senate Bills 88 and 63 each dealing with this Authority and both of which have passed the Senate with crossover dates to the House of 2 April and 28 March respectively. SB 63 has been amended to remove legislator members and require Governor and Council approval of appointees. There still is a vacant Governor/appointee seat to be filled at this time.

- D. Preece has met with Montagne Communications over private funds that may become available for continuing to get the word out on the *Capitol Corridor Rail & Transit Analysis* and its implications for New Hampshire, copies of which were distributed to each board member present as well as the public attending.
- D. Preece for the Project Committee report: They held a 10 February session to recommend the “Manchester Alternative” in the above Analysis (copies distributed) as the most viable. But member C. Baia urged that reconsideration be given for the inclusion of Concord especially now that MBTA has obtained track rights to the Capital City. Question raised about the capacity of North Station to add any more Amtrak inter-city consists if this is to be the chosen mode. T. Starkweather urged that “those of us north of Concord” not be forgotten. Project Committee recommendation not adopted at this time.

P. Hurlihy noted there would be a hearing in Plaistow on 24 February following two postponements due to weather. Purpose is to come up with a preferred docking alternative (out of three).

Reminder: The annual report of this board is due to the legislature by the close of this quarter.

The Northern New England High-Speed Rail Initiative (CT. River Valley) is recommending that the station at Claremont Jct. be upgraded. Discussions underway with the Common Man Family of Restaurants to become involved. They have a major inn/restaurant facility in Claremont and are very civic-minded.

R. Jaffin noted the a 24 February meeting of the Stafford County Regional Planning Commission rail working group will be focusing on bus and trolley options realizing that Somersworth will not become a rail destination. He noted there are many myths about rail being the only transportation mode that is subsidized; asked for supporting data on this. M. Taylor will send what he has researched.

Next meeting of the Rail Transit Authority will be held in this room on 20 March at 10 AM preceded by an executive session; both are open to the public.

Moved to adjourn at 10:48 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

M. Taylor, clerk, *pro tem*