

Train Station Committee

Meeting notes from the Monday, February 28, 2011 meeting at the Chamber of Commerce offices.

Attendance at the meeting: Bob, Arthur, David, Joy, Mike S, Bill, Julie, Cary, Don B. and Don W.

Agenda:

- Downeaster update and performance stats
- NNEPRA & TrainRiders NE update
- Town deliberative session feedback
- Town vote March 8
- New business
- Next meeting

Downeaster Performance & Station Condition

Bob reported that the the Exeter boardings are coming back to pre-recession numbers. Daily he observes between 75-80 commuters on the first morning train. Public works spent a half day cleaning out the snow piles freeing up 5 parking spots. Many thanks to the people at Exeter's Public Works Department and the Parks Department taking care of the station over the winter. Julie Gilman will mention the good work and the appreciation at the next selectmen's meeting.

Station Project and Improvements:

Don Briselden reported on the town's deliberative session and the upcoming vote on March 8 at the Talbot Gym. Bob made the article 25 presentation at the deliberative station and received extensive applause from the audience. Don passed out the station project fact sheet; copy attached.

The committee then discussed getting more voting info out to the town voters. David Brown offered to provided fact sheet copies to Joy so that she could provide them to the morning commuters. Don B will post additional fact sheets at the station. David will also print up a number of stake signs for people to display outside of Talbot Gym on March 8th. Bob and Cary offered to display the signs in the morning, at noon and in the evening to catch the majority of voters.

Don Woodward reported that the State of NH has taken bids and awarded bus service from Portsmouth to Manchester airport with a flag stop in Exeter. He believes the award was to Flight Line. The date for service is yet to be determined.

Bob stated that he was applying to the NH Garden Club for a 200 grant to purchase and install hanging baskets at the station.

West Exeter Initiative:

Don Briselden reported on the Plan NH's charrett team presentation that was held on Wednesday, January 26th, 7 PM at the Lincoln Street School. The meeting was attended by some 50+ residents who provided positive comments regarding the focus on the station improvements, neighborhood preservation and

traffic control. Don then used the Plan NH report to outline the proposed station development and how it is coordinated with the baggage building improvements. The near term project will fit well with the long term proposal and will not be redundant or need to be replace.

Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority (NNEPRA), Ops meetings:

Bob reported on the February ops meeting held in Haverhill, MA. The meeting was hosted by the Haverhill Chamber of Commerce. The focus was on improvements to their station area including a new parking structure which will have direct connection to the station platform. Bob also mentioned NNEPERA's efforts to provide additional Downeaster signage and to make the way-finding more visible.

Bob also mentioned that the next Ops meeting will be in Exeter on April 28th at the new Hampton Inn hotel from 9 top noon. Additional info will be provided as it becomes available. Committee members are welcome and encouraged to attend. Bob and Mike will work with the Inn to set up the meeting. Don B and Cary will arrange for bus transportation.

Next Meeting: 5 pm, Monday, March 28th. 2011, at the Chamber offices.

CC: Arthur