

SOMERSWORTH RAIL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING
JULY 15, 2014

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dale Sprague, Chair, Martin Pepin, Joanne Pepin, Lara Willard.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jacqueline Hanlon, Brian Caple, Paul Robidas, Travis Heon and Christien DuBois.

STAFF PRESENT: Dave Sharples, Director of Planning and Community Development and Darcy Moore, Code/Assessing Clerk.

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 pm.

1) APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF JUNE 24, 2014.

Motion: Lara Willard moved to approve the minutes of the meeting of June 24, 2014.

Seconded by Martin Pepin. Motion carried with a unanimous 5-0 vote.

2) NEW BUSINESS

Councilor Jennifer Soldati was in attendance.

Sprague provided an update that the Economic Development Committee approved to put the RFP out with the language that was provided to them. He stated that the RFP will be put out to receive bids and that the Committee will be in touch with the NH Rail Authority to try and contact consultants for bids on the RFP.

Sharples stated he spoke with Christine Soutter to get a list of consults together. Sharples stated he will contact Steve Pesci to get a list of consultants. He noted that the bid specifications still need to be refined.

Sprague commented that most companies will give their own specs on what they can do for the money. He stated that the RFP will not be going to the City Council.

Sprague stated the Committee should move forward with the mission statement and proceeded to read Mayor Dana Hilliard's e-mail regarding the creation of the Rail Advisory Committee. Within the e-mail it was noted that because this Committee was created under the charter powers of the Mayor, the language/mission statement can be created by Committee. Sprague read directly from the e-mail that the Committee was created because, "Rail service played major role in the history and economic development of the community. The return of rail service is critical to the revitalization and advancement of Somersworth."

Willard proposed writing down buzz words for the mission statement. After some discussion the committee created the following list of words/phrases: historic preservation, economic/business development, revitalization/advancement of

Somersworth, conservation/sustainability, regional, quality of life/livability, transportation alternatives, promotes regionalization, passenger rail, compete, whereas, regional connectivity.

After much discussion the Committee proposed the following three choices as possible mission statements:

- To reestablish regional connectivity and advance economic development efforts through the return of passenger rail to the City of Somersworth.
- To improve quality of life and economic development in the Seacoast Region through the return of passenger rail to the City of Somersworth.
- To return passenger rail service to the City of Somersworth to advance regional connectivity, economic development and quality of life.

During the discussion Willard stated that the mission statement needs to support the goal of the Committee so that when advising tax payers the benefit of the Committee is known.

During the discussion Willard stated that this would be the time to change the name of the Committee if the Committee wanted to. The Committee then discussed possible new names.

Joanne Pepin stated she would like to see the mission statement done today and she was ready to vote for a final statement.

Motion: Joanne Pepin motions for committee to accept the third statement as the mission statement for this committee.

Seconded by Sharples. Motion carried with a unanimous 5-0 vote.

Joanne Pepin proposed that the purpose statement be put on the next agenda.

Sharples stated that the purpose statement is to further the “why” of the mission statement.

Joanne Pepin asked if the medical businesses on Route 108 will assist in advocating rail.

Willard stated that they will be good for writing letters of support for grants.

Joanne Pepin asked about the rail trip to Brunswick.

Willard stated that a date will need to be set. She asked about September or October.

Sprague asked if days or weekends would be better.

Willard stated week days.

Sprague said to look into the end of August.

The Committee decided to meet again on August 12th at 4pm. The Committee will look to establish a rail trip up North.

Motion: Sharples moved to adjourn the meeting.

Seconded by Martin Pepin. Motion carried with a unanimous 5-0 vote.

Meeting adjourned at 5:03pm.

Respectfully submitted:



Darcy Moore, Code/Assessing Clerk
Somersworth Rail Advisory Committee

