

CLAREMONT AMTRAK PASSENGER RAIL COMMITTEE

AUGUST 4, 2015

Members Present: Charlene Lovett, Carolyn Towle, Scott Magnuson, Raymond Gagnon

Absent: James Reed

Committee called to order – 6:05 pm by Chair Lovett

1. Public Comment:
 - a. Mr. Bernard Folta – Ward III – informed committee of efforts by the Connecticut River By-Way Council to encourage and publicize cycling as a tourist opportunity. The By-Way council has published a booklet to enhance tourism in the region and according to Mr Folta, the committee might want to connect with them as to working collaboratively.
 - b. Apparently a number of nonprofits participate and that the City of Claremont's representative is Nancy Merrill from the city's Planning and Development office.
 - c. Committee agreed to reach out and link up with the By-Way Council.

2. Letters to Senators Ayotte & Shaheen. Chair informed the committee that she had shared the letter by member – Raymond Gagnon requesting Senators Ayotte & Shaheen's assistance in facilitating a pre-clearance facility in Montreal for the Vermonter & proposed high speed rail service between Montreal & Boston – with Mr. Bill Hollister of Amtrak.
 - a. According to Mrs. Lovett, Amtrak personnel were very pleased to know of our efforts,
 - b. They shared with her that while the Treaty permitting the pre-clearance facility has been signed – Senator Leahy has requested that it be a priority.
 - c. Asked if we have had any feedback from the Senators & Congresswoman Kuster. R. Gagnon agreed to reach out to the federal offices.
 - d. Suggestion that we ask the City Council to weigh in and draft a similar letter requesting federal electors support

3. The Ad-hoc Committee regular meeting is scheduled for August 18, however due to schedule conflicts the meeting has been changed to August 20 at 7:00 PM.

4. Committee discussed the recent article in the Eagle Times announcing that efforts for a shelter at the Rail Station is progressing. Construction is planned to occur on September 1, 2015, and should be completed by October 9, 2015

5. R. Gagnon briefed the committee that the date of November 4, 2015 has been set for the Governor and Council to hold their monthly meeting in Claremont.
 - a. As part of the meeting, the NH Canada Trade Council will brief the G&C on expanding trade and economic development with our Canadian neighbors in Quebec.
 - b. The Trade Council would like to include as part of the briefing an overview of activities by the Ad-Hoc Passenger Rail Committee relative to being designated as a stop on the Boston to Montreal High Speed Train.

- c. Committee expressed an interest in extending an invitation to Mr. Bill Hollister from Amtrak.
6. Members of the Ad-Hoc Committee are scheduled to brief both the V-Trans committee in Montpelier and the Claremont City Council of its efforts.
7. Motion by Carolyn Towle, 2nd by Scott Magnuson to approved the minutes of July 21. Motion passed unanimously.
8. Motion to adjourn at 7PM by Carolyn Towle, 2nd by Scott Magnuson – unanimous concurrence .

Respectfully submitted
Raymond Gagnon,
Acting Scribe