

Claremont Rail Committee

Draft minutes – Sept 3, 2015

Chair called meeting to order at 7:01 PM

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

Absent: James Reed

1. Minutes of Aug 25 – motion to accept Carolyn Towle, 2nd Charlene Lovett –motion passes 3 for, 1 abstaining
2. Feedback provided by Scott Magnuson & Charlene Lovett on their presentation to the Vermont Rail Advisory Council (VRAC). The Claremont presentation was well received – and provided an opportunity to develop contacts and network for the Claremont Jct. Among individuals met were representatives of Genesee & Wyoming RR (the new owners of the Claremont/Concord RR). Met with Amtrak regional leadership as well as Vermont legislators.
 - a. General concern re: the VERMONTER ridership numbers were raised by the VRAC – view Claremont as being on track and helping raise their numbers.
 - b. Consensus is that a representative of the committee attend their quarterly meetings on a regular basis.
 - c. Bike Rack project by Amtrak is still being installed on the Vermonter – in the final stages of completion.
 - d. Question raised by Carolyn Towle – re: Amtrak’s response to the committee’s power point presentation? Lovett and Magnuson stated that all comments regarding the presentation were favorable.
3. Committee was informed about the Sept 24 public hearing on the NEIRI (Boston/Montreal Train) – set for 7pm at the Hotel Coolidge, WRJ. Several members expressed an interest in attending
4. Waiting pavilion update –
 - a. Permitting done – all have been approved,
 - b. WHS Holmes have started construction of the shelter and expect completion by mid-September,
 - c. Mike Lemieux – Pine Hill Construction – projects 1 day to complete prep work at site. Need foundation set for construction.
 - d. Project is moving along well – American Glass is working on the tempered glass component,
 - e. Lavalley may donate roof shingles,
 - f. John Lambert or Charlene will act as the point persons on the project.
5. Claremont Tire Tracks Bike Tour
 - a. Several registrations received

- b. Date set of Oct 10th
 - c. Concern re: need for volunteers to lead the tours
 - d. Focus on the Country Mild tour
6. Apparently linking biking with the Amtrak Vermonter is of major interest to several in VT who have congratulated Claremont on its cycling “Claremont Tire Tracks” event, and are hoping to use it as a model/pilot for other communities to follow.
- a. Bellow Falls especially is interested – suggestion was for the committee to explore potential future collaboration.
 - b. Chair is to organize a meeting with reps from the Bike Shop, as well as VT communities to discuss future collaborative ventures.
 - c. For example; issue of bike rentals may be a topic of interest – Committee consensus is that after the Bike tour – the committee needs to develop a marketing plan for the Jct. & passenger rail.
7. Informed that Amtrak representative – Bill Hollister – is planning on attending the Nov 4 G&C meeting/briefing in Claremont
8. Next meeting scheduled for Sept 8 – at 6PM

Motion to adjourn by Scott Magnuson, 2nd by Carolyn Towle – unanimous – meeting adjourned at 8PM

Respectfully submitted

Raymond Gagnon