

# Route 113 Corridor Committee

Corridor Committee Meeting

November 20, 2008

2.30 – 5:00 PM

Standish Municipal Center

## Meeting Notes

**Attendance:** Gordon Billington (Standish); Bob Jewett (Standish); Marlene Livonia (Hiram); Wayne Newbegin (Standish); Eric Noble (Hiram); Phil Pomerleau; Glen Reynolds (Baldwin); Larry Seidl (Baldwin); Mike Shaw (Standish); Lou Stack (Standish); Marlee Turner (Brownfield); Steve Wood (Baldwin).

**Staff:** Julia Dawson (SMRPC) Caroline Paras (GPCOG)

### I. Welcome and Introductions

#### A. Meeting Minutes

Caroline called the meeting to order.

There were no changes offered for the minutes of 09/25/08.

### II. News and Updates

#### A. Town News

**Standish:** The Town held a public health and safety day on October 11. Events included hay rides, pumpkin patch, fire rescue mock ups, and Red Cross demonstrations. The gazebo is done and lit for the holidays. The addition to the municipal building is being extensively utilized. The MaineDOT offered the Town 11 miles in a road exchange, which the Town declined; they ended up taking back three (3) miles.

**Hiram:** John Chwaszczenski, owner of the Cotton Store, passed away recently. He did not leave a will and it looks like the State will take care of dissolving his estate. It is still undecided what will become of the (closed) elementary school in the village of East Hiram.

**Baldwin:** The Town met today with Aaron Shapiro from Cumberland County's Community Development Block Grant Program to discuss options for restoring the water tower. The meeting was positive and the Selectmen made it clear that it is a priority for the Town. The Town will submit a planning grant application in time for the February deadline. The Committee (Route 113 Corridor Coalition) was asked if they would vote to endorse the Baldwin's project. All agreed that this was a good project for the region. When taken to a vote, all were in favor.

Fryeburg: The Town of Fryeburg was not represented at the meeting; however, Julia did inform the group that Fryeburg's Town Manager and Board of Selectmen had been invited to join the Committee. Unfortunately, our current meeting schedule conflicts with Fryeburg's regular Selectmen's meetings on Thursdays.

After a brief discussion, it was agreed that the Route 113 Committee would change their regular Thursday meeting to Wednesdays; this would accommodate Fryeburg's, and others, meeting schedules.

Brownfield was not represented; however, Julia did inform the group that Steve Gourley had been appointed by the Town of Brownfield as their official representative on the Committee.

### **B. Scenic Byway marketing materials** (taken out of order)

Caroline explained that staff had drafted a proposal to Ernie DeLuca from Florida Power & Light for funding consideration for both the light box and the Scenic Byway brochure. The amount requested (\$6,350) would cover design, construction and printing costs for both items. The group expressed the importance of giving local print businesses an opportunity to bid on the work.

Meanwhile, the group has received a bill from the Maine Tourism Association for \$350 to reserve one year of the light box at the Fryeburg Visitors Center. The group had agreed over six months ago to move forward on the purchase but to date no money had been collected. Representatives from Standish offered to raise the funds to cover the bill through action at their next Council meeting or at a special Town meeting.

### **C. Committee Structure and Bylaws**

Caroline reminded the group that at the last meeting, two major questions were raised and unresolved regarding the draft resolution and bylaws:+

**Funding:** Should the Committee request a set amount on an annual basis from each Town or should money be raised on an ad-hoc basis when the need arises?

**Binding Authority:** Should the actions of the Committee be binding on the municipality or should they simply compel the Town's representative to report back and request legislative action, when necessary?

**Funding:** Caroline used the light box at the Fryeburg Visitors Center as an example of when funds needed to be raised by the Committee. Phil raised the idea of towns committing a set amount of dollars, on an annual basis, to the Committee with the caveat that town approval would be needed before the funds were actually used. Marlee is concerned that some towns have limited resources, and that there are ongoing internal structural issues to deal with. No consensus was reached on this issue.

**Binding Authority:** Caroline reminded everyone on the wording of the draft resolution (see below) and asked for more feedback.

“Decisions of the Committee shall be “nonbinding” on the municipality and also that they would be forwarded to the governing body with a recommendation for manager approval, governing body endorsement, or legislative body endorsement, whether or not such approval is a requirement for moving forward”.

Eric stressed that he had been given explicit instructions by the Hiram Selectmen NOT to sign anything or vote on anything. This raises the question, what authority should/do the Committee members have when it comes to town issues? No consensus was reached on this issue.

Committee members agreed to go back to their Town Councils and Boards of Selectman to introduce the resolution “as is” for feedback.

#### **D. Legislative Summit for the Mountain Division**

At the last meeting, Committee members suggested the possibility of hosting a legislative summit on the Mountain Division to make the case for funding to rebuild the infrastructure. This idea was discussed with a number of folks, including Senator Diamond, Nate Moulton of MaineDOT, and Wayne Davis with Trainriders Northeast. Due to the state of the economy and the change in administration, a majority of those consulted felt that this might not be the best time to host such an event:

- There might be an economic stimulus package for public works projects, including transportation, coming out of the next Congress
- There might be a State bond put forth for transportation projects next year
- Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority is waiting on approval for a loan to rehabilitate the track from Portland to Brunswick
- Rep. Shaw has invited Amtrak officials to meet with the Maine Legislature next year

The Committee decided that a summit, while still important, but could probably wait until the late spring. Instead, the Committee decided to host a “meet and greet” potluck for legislators and town officials. The purpose would be to present the economic development strategy. The Mountain Division would be incorporated into the presentation. The best date was December 10, with December 8 and 9 selected as back-ups.

#### **III. Next meeting date**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 21, 2009 in Brownfield

#### **IV. Action Items**

- Invite Brian Doyle from the Maine Department of Economic and Community Development to a future meeting to discuss the Pine Tree Zone process.
- Julia will get quotes from local print shops (Jim Stacey and Cardinal Print)
- Committee members will follow up with Board of Selectmen regarding draft resolution, explicitly binding authority and funding issues.