

Route 113 Corridor Committee

Corridor Committee Meeting

July 8, 2009

2:30 – 5:00 PM

Brown Memorial Library, East Baldwin

Meeting Notes

Committee Members: Steve Gourley (Brownfield); Tom Klinepeter (Fryeburg), Dave Knapp, Chair (Fryeburg); Marlene Livonia (Hiram); Terry MacGillivray (Fryeburg); Phil Pomerleau (Standish); Larry Seidl (Baldwin); Mike Shaw (Standish); Lou Stack, Vice Chair (Standish); Marlee Turner (Brownfield).

Guests: Tony Donovan (Portland); Jeff Doyle (Baldwin); Jeff Doyle Jr. (Baldwin); Steve Estes (Baldwin); Gary Higginbottom (Portland); Bob Jewett (Baldwin); Terry Miller (White Mt. National Forest); Nate Moulton (MaineDOT); Rep. Helen Rankin (Hiram); Jack Sutton (MRG, Inc.) Steve Wood (Baldwin); Gordon Young (Conway).

Staff: Julia Dawson (SMRPC); Caroline Paras (GPCOG).

Caroline called the meeting to order at 2:40 PM.

I. Old Business

A. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

At the May meeting, Dave Knapp and Lou Stack were nominated as Chair and Vice Chair respectively. Dave and Lou accepted their nominations. A motion was made by Phil, seconded by Marlee to formally nominate Dave Knapp as Chair and Lou Stack as Vice Chair. The motion passed 7-0 with Dave and Lou abstaining.

Caroline turned the meeting over to the new Chair. Dave reminded everyone that the Route 113 Corridor Committee was approaching its five year anniversary and thanked staff for all their hard work over the years. He welcomed Rep. Helen Rankin to the meeting.

B. Minutes of 05/13/09

Lou made a motion, seconded by Phil, to approve the minutes as printed. The motion passed A.I.F

II. Announcements and Updates

A. Town News

Standish: The Town is getting a new traffic light at the intersection of Routes 25 and 113. There is expanded parking at Town Hall to accommodate the new building expansion. The Town officially became a member of the Maine Tourism Association, which allowed the Route 113 Committee to post brochures in the Visitors Centers at York and Fryeburg. *Thank you Standish.*

Hiram: The Ossipee Valley Bluegrass Festival and Fair is coming up this month. The Maine Department of Transportation will be starting construction work soon to replace the bridge on Route 160.

Baldwin: The Maine Legislature passed a bill declaring the entire State eligible for Pine Tree Zone benefits. Larry noted the town of Baldwin should be recognized for its successful grassroots efforts to pass this bill. Baldwin Appreciation Day will be July 25. Everyone is invited to join in the festivities which will include live music, children's rides and an ice cream social.

Brownfield: The new community center at the Brownfield School is going strong. There is a kid's summer camp and the historical society has been very active.

Fryeburg: The Town had its first and last hybrid style town meeting in June. The Maine Bike Rally will be held this weekend. It is expected that around 200 cyclists will attend. Camping will be available at the Fryeburg Academy complex. Saunders Brothers just sold the old mill on Fair Street to Dennett Forest Industries. It is reported that they are looking at converting the old mill to a pellet plant. The mill is located on a rail line spur that was once the Fryeburg station. Fryeburg recently established a new business association that will provide services not previously covered by the Mount Washington Valley and Bridgton chambers. Membership is currently around 60.

White Mountain National Forest: Terry reminded the group that he is a resource with regards to the byway. The Kancamagus Scenic Byway in New Hampshire is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. Restoration work on Brickett Place, the oldest structure on forest land east of the Mississippi, was recently completed.

Mike Shaw announced that the 124th Legislature had formally recognized the work of the Route 113 Corridor Committee and presented the group with an award from the State. Caroline also noted that GPCOG had recently presented the Committee with a ReCOGNition Award for best practices in regional economic development.

B. Byway Cleanup Day

The group agreed to continue with the event next year; however, there should be more coordination with other clean-up groups to prevent redundancy and increase participation. Turn out was not great but multiple truck loads of trash were picked up. The Cotton Valley Rail Trail Club also picked up trash along the railroad bed. Larry will coordinate with Nate to send them a letter of thanks for all their efforts.

C. Gorham-Portland East-West Study

David did not attend the last meeting due to a scheduling conflict. The minutes are posted here: <http://www.gorhamcorridor.org>.

III. Scenic Byway

1. Byway Brochure

Julia handed out copies of the completed brochure. She explained that the focus of the brochure was on outdoor recreation and was created as a pilot for one year to test the market. Julia thanked the Town of Standish for their generous support in paying for a membership to the Maine Tourism Association. Distribution of the brochure has been as follows:

500	Fryeburg
500	Standish
500	Sebago Lakes Region (distributed in Windham and Naples)
500	York Visitors Center
500	Divided between Hiram, Brownfield, and Baldwin

The light box (draft copy on view at the meeting) graphic is now at Nimlok Maine and ready to be constructed. It should take 1-15 business days; they will deliver it directly to the Fryeburg Visitors Center.

3. Scenic Byway Corridor Advisory Committee

Julia suggested a subcommittee be formed to work on the Scenic Byway Corridor Management Plan. The Route 113 Corridor Committee will officially appoint the members and adopt the plan when the time comes. For consistency's sake, the subcommittee ought to include at least one voting member of the Route 113 Corridor Committee from each town. Dave charged the group with coming back to the next meeting with the names of four candidates from each town to invite to serve on the subcommittee. The more comprehensive the subcommittee is in representing all aspects of the corridor, the higher the likelihood of future funding.

III. Mountain Division Rail Line

Dave asked the group if they wanted to revise the resolution adopted at the last meeting based on feedback received at the recent Sierra Club forum on rail. Phil made a motion, seconded by Marlee, to include the language Class III "or higher" in the RESOLVE. A brief discussion followed. Motion carried A.I.F.

Nate Moulton of the MaineDOT gave the group an update on the most recent bond package proposal. The final version of the \$22 million bond ended up with only \$4 million for rail projects: \$1 million went to IRAP, \$1 million for state owned lines, and \$2 million for critical corridors. The Mountain Division did not receive any set-aside funding.

Nate informed the group that the State Rail Plan (SRP) had started and was expected to be completed by the end of the year. Ground work and data collection is underway, but no public input has been scheduled. The project's website is here:

<http://www.maine.gov/mdot/railplan/index.htm>

Nate also announced to the group that the state is applying for stimulus funds through the TIGER (targeted infrastructure generating economic recovery) program. All types of surface transportation projects are eligible for this money, and every state will be competing for the \$1.5 billion. Projects will be rated on long term outcomes, including job creation, innovation, and partnerships. Applications are due September 15, and awards will be announced in February 2010. HNTB will be assisting the MaineDOT with the application. The state does not anticipate the need for an environmental impact analysis because the project will stay within the existing

right-of-way. The project will be part of a two-part, multimodal application package that will include restoration of the Mountain Division rail line to Class II standards (\$22 million) and a megaberth at Ocean Gateway in Portland (\$8 million).

A general discussion followed. The group wanted to know what they could do to help move the application along. Nate said he would look to staff to help with data collection efforts. Dave Knapp requested a notification letter be written by MaineDOT that could be shared with various contacts and our New Hampshire counterparts. Members felt that a PACTS (Portland Area Comprehensive Transportation Committee) endorsement would be valuable; unfortunately none of the Route 113 Corridor communities are PACTS members. It was suggested the Committee contact the PACTS communities (Windham, Gorham, Portland & Westbrook) that abut the Mountain Division line to request their support. Tony Donovan offered to talk to Portland.

It was decided that Caroline would talk to John Duncan (PACTS) and Neal Allen (GPCOG) as to how PACTS should and could be involved. HNTB will get in contact with staff and let them know what assistance they need. No special meeting of the Route 113 Committee will be called.

III. New Business

The next meeting will be held in Standish (location to be determined) on August 19.