

General John Stark Scenic Byway Council Draft Meeting Notes

January 26, 2016
Town Office, Weare

In Attendance:

David Pierce, Chair – Goffstown
Heleen Kurk – Weare
Naomi Bolton – Weare
Barbara Schult – Goffstown

William Rose – NH DOT
Dean Williams – CNHRPC
Adam Hlasny – SNHPC

Welcome and Introductions

Mr. David Pierce, Chair of the General John Stark Scenic Byway Council, called the meeting to order at 4:10 pm.

Approve Minutes from the October 20, 2015 Meeting

Approval of the meeting notes from October was tabled due to lack of a quorum.

2016 Officer Positions

Election of Officers was tabled due to lack of a quorum.

Status of Byways in NH

William Rose gave a lengthy presentation on the many intricacies of New Hampshire's Scenic Byway program. Some of the cogent points were as follows:

- There has not been standalone byway funding available since 2012; however, despite the current lack of funding, byways in NH are in some ways more organized now than ever before. There is no federal funding on the horizon for the foreseeable future, either.
- The NH Scenic & Cultural Byways Council (SCBC) oversees the NH program for now; there is the possibility of the program being passed from NH DOT to NH Department of Resources and Economic Development (DRED) in the coming years.
- Moving forward, the State SCBC will work with byways on the verge of de-designation (currently 6 in total) to update Corridor Management Plans and garner active support in the form of Corridor Advisory Committees.
- There will also be forthcoming updates to the state byway map, marketing tools, website, and potentially a manual.

The group expressed interest in creating a brochure statewide similar to the one Vermont has produced for its byways. William noted that while grant funds from private sources may be available for brochures and marketing tools, it is unlikely that there would be a unified statewide production in the current economic climate.

“What are we hoping to accomplish in 2016?”

The success of getting signage manufactured and deployed in 2015 was briefly noted. Adam Hlasny voiced the opinion that recruiting new members from New Boston and Dunbarton should be top priority in 2016, and should come before increased marketing efforts. Barbara Schult noted that she has contacts in Dunbarton, and to a lesser extent, New Boston, that she could talk to

regarding serving on the byway council. Dean Williams added that CNHRPC will be assisting Dunbarton update its master plan in 2016; this could potentially be a source of byway interest. Heleen Kurk added that there is a new town planner in New Boston that could be contacted regarding byway representation.

Adam volunteered to post a link to the NH Chronicle segment on the byway on the byway website, as well as to research the original 2008 route for the purposes of updating the NH DOT statewide byway map.

Next Meeting

The next quarterly meeting of the council will be held on Tuesday, April 19, 2016, 4pm at a location to be determined.

The meeting adjourned at 5:27 pm.