



Minutes

**Wednesday March 20, 2013 - 7:00 PM
SWRPA Offices, Stamford, CT**

Council Members in Attendance: Chairman Jim Cameron, Rodney Chabot, Sue Prosi, Tim Beeble, Roger Cirella, Bob Jelley, Dave Hendricks, Mitch Fuchs, John Hartwell, Terri Cronin, Jeff Maron and Jim Gildea.

Guests: Eugene Colonese-DOT, Sue Doering–Metro North

Chairman Cameron opened the meeting at 7:05 PM.

Minutes:

Motion by Rodney Chabot, seconded by Bob Jelley, to approve the minutes of February 20, 2013 as amended. Approved.

Chairman's Report:

Chairman Cameron reported that he had attended a workshop on Parliamentary Procedure offered by the CT Conference of Municipalities. He will strive to have future agendas be more specific, and he will be more formal in running the meeting. Public input will be taken at the beginning of the meeting rather than throughout the meeting.

1. Response to Pre-submitted Questions:

Eugene Colonese confirmed that Bob Jelley had accurately calculated the current basic peak one-way fare at 20.18 cents per mile plus \$6.05 for travel to GCT or Harlem 125th.

The Bridgeport to Waterbury run takes 58 minutes. Due to the lack of a signalization system, adding another train to run during the 4 hour gap between 2:37 PM and 6:37 PM would require a second set of equipment and crew. DOT would have to review schedules to determine the impact on the main line service, as well as review ridership, revenue and cost.

The increased ridership on the Waterbury Branch as projected in the feasibility study is tied to completion of signalization and siding improvements in 2015.

The 9 trains to be added to the weekend schedule will originate in Stamford, extending the half hour service schedule by 5 hours.

Sue Doering reported that the escalators at GCT to the North End Access are under renovation. The work is underway 6 days per week and 10 hours per day. Some parts need to be fabricated and other parts need to be disassembled and rebuilt. The first escalator will be complete in May, and the 2nd escalator will be back in service in July.

Eugene Colonese indicated that the proposals for the Stamford Parking garage are under technical and financial review. A decision will be made next month.

Action: Mr. Colonese will provide a map showing the existing garage locations.

There are 8 refurbished bar cars. Seven are in daily service. Postings by Clever Commute of trains with bar car service may not be accurate.

Action: Mr. Colonese will provide a bar car usage list.

2. Commuter Death at Noroton Heights on 3/4/2013:

Sue Doering reported that an investigation continues into the death of the commuter (Mr Kevin Murphy of Darien), who was struck by a train at Noroton Heights. So far, only the motorman witnessed the accident. This was a through-train travelling on the platform track. Doering confirmed that engineers on through-trains sound the horn to warn passengers who are on the platform.

3. Stamford Garage RFQ:

This item was covered in # 1 above.

4. Mainline Issues:

A P&W freight train derailed on the bridge over the Quinnipiac River. Three cars derailed. By 8:00 PM one track was opened. The second track was cleared by the next day.

5. Branchline Issues:

Issues were covered in # 1 above.

6. Shore Line East:

No Issues.

7. Rail Related Bills before the Legislature:

Chairman Cameron informed the Council that the Transportation Committee did not approve most of the proposed train-related bills. However, a bill that was approved by the Committee involved limiting the use of Special Transportation Funds.

HB 6363 was approved by the GAE Committee that would reconstitute the Commuter Council, restricting the appointing authority of certain members of the Legislature and also giving authority to the Governor to name the Council Chairman. The Council's jurisdiction would be expanded to include areas that have proposed rail lines such as the New Haven to Springfield line. One Council member, appointed by the Governor, would be a chief elected official of a town that is served by an existing or proposed rail line.

The Council discussed the fact that the Council currently has representation of the Main Line, Shoreline East and the three Branch Lines.

Action: A sub-committee comprised of Jim Cameron, John Hartwell, Bob Jelley and Tim Beeble will draft revised language for HB 6363.

Motion to adjourn by Jeff Maron, seconded by Dave Hendricks.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:
Tim Beeble
Secretary