



# Minutes

**Wednesday October 17, 2012 - 7:00 PM  
SWRPA Offices, Stamford, CT**

Council Members in Attendance: Vice Chairman Terri Cronin, Sue Prosi, Tim Beeble, Rodney Chabot, David Hendricks, Roger Cirella, Bob Jelly, Jeff Maron, Mitch Fuchs, Luke Schnirring. Guests: Eugene Colonese - DOT, Sue Doering - MNR, Chris Marrelli.

Vice Chair Terri Cronin opened the meeting at 7:05 PM.

**Minutes:** Approval of the minutes of the September 19, 2012 meeting as amended: Motion by Jeff Maron, seconded by Roger Cirella. Motion approved. Corrections: The new schedule for October eliminates the skip stop trains and will provide hourly service. Ms. Cronin asked that the Yankee Trains make all stops on the inbound trip. She also asked Metro North to look into the Fairfield-Metro train that is consistently 6 minutes late.

**1. Stamford Garage RFP Update:**

Eugene Colonese reported that an unrevealed number of proposals have been received by CT DOT in response to the RFP. The Governor has established an Advisory Committee that includes Commuter Council member David Hendricks from Stamford, a long-time user of the existing garage. DOT will make a selection before the end of the year.

**2. Customer Satisfaction Survey:**

Metro North previously provided the results of the Survey.

**3. Expansion of the Council Jurisdiction:**

Bob Jelly suggested that the Council's area of focus be expanded to include the proposed New Haven – Springfield corridor. The Council members suggested that the DOT Commissioner be consulted on this. Consideration might include an expansion of the Council membership to include representatives for this new train line/branch.

**4. Station Waiting Room Hours:**

LI RR will keep station waiting rooms open until 10 PM. After discussion, Gene Colonese agreed to gather information on current hours of Connecticut stations and the logistics of opening/closing and who would be responsible for the cost of later hours.

## **5. Main Line:**

Vice Chairman Cronin congratulated Metro North conductors who ejected passengers who traveled on the trains to the Comicon Convention in costumes such as in fatigues or dressed as the Swedish mass murderer with fake guns.

Ops Report was reviewed.

Sue Doering reviewed the complaint of a passenger whose train (1578) was involved in the pantograph damage when 150 feet of electric lines were pulled down. The noise frightened the passenger. Metro North will review and change its phone tree system.

While the Council was meeting, at 7:30 PM 10/17/2012, a train in Greenwich (1059) struck a person. 4 tracks were shut down.

Rodney Chabot reported that the 11:57 AM train to New Canaan is not appearing on the Stamford monitor on a regular basis.. Sue Doering will investigate.

Bob Jelly reported that the Train Board in GCT has not consistently shown connections. Sue Doering indicated that this should be resolved now that a software problem has been corrected.

Mitch Fuchs asked about the CooCoo Test with Smart Phones on LIRR. Sue Doering reported that MN is testing a Smart Phone App for eticketing. MN needs to build-in protections against fraud. Wifi is progressing in implementation.

Jeff Maron thanked Gene Colonese on the garage improvements and monitor screens. Gene Colonese noted that concrete is being repaired and that the roped-off parking spaces on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor may be part of the Transitway Project.

Bob Jelly reviewed a problem with inaccurate track assignment information being given to transferring riders in New Haven. Gene Colonese will contact the dispatcher.

Sue Prosi reported that she is speaking to the Town of Stratford regarding station repairs and safety provisions during construction.

## **6. Branch Lines:**

Rodney Chabot reported a burned-out light bulb at the Talmadge Hill Station on the New Canaan Branch. Gene Colonese will see that it is replaced.

Roger Cirella reported that there is a 4 hour gap in service during weekend afternoons from 2:30 PM to 6:30 PM on the Waterbury Branch.

## **7. Shore Line East:**

Bob Jelly reported that he got stuck in the elevator at the Guilford Station.

**7. Other:**

Charles Marrelli demonstrated his electronic signs that are in place at 19 stations from Stratford to NY. It provides commuter and track information plus advertising.

Motion to adjourn by David Hendricks, seconded by Jeff Maron. Meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM

Respectfully submitted by:

Tim Beeble  
Secretary