

## Minutes of Bridges and Railroad Committee

December 15, 2014

Members Present: Larry Schell, , Jim Doran, Roger Rhodes, Charles Costanza, Dr. Ken Thompson ,  
Bernadette Slawinski Members Absent: Tom Clouser, Marshall Reeder, Eric Kurtz

Others in Attendance: Paul Panther, Officer R. Singh

1. Minutes Approved from the November 2014 Meeting.
2. Roger Rhodes reviewed the information he received from the Environmental Meeting regarding the impact of High speed rail. A discussion was held. Mixed opinions regarding opposition to the proposals of the environmental committee to oppose high speed rail. The committee did not make a proposal on this issue.
3. Roger Rhodes reported information regarding the Scada system that tracks how long the rail gates are down each day. Tom Tittle is looking into systems that could be used at less expense to do this job. Larry Schell presented information from Dan Barnum for another system to track the information as well. Options will be explored to identify a system that can be installed and used at the gates.
4. Sand Tracks deed is still being located. The information received is inconclusive as to which group holds the title to the land. NPS information is in conflict with the information received. Concerns were raised by a committee member regarding the effort that has been put into this and the importance to the Town Council. The Committee will wait to pursue recommendations for an additional exit until the title dispute is settled. The committee believes there is a need for a second exit due to the high number of trains per day (150-180) and the risk of a rail accident in front of the town.
5. A discussion held regarding the costs and the ability to fund repairs to the roads being considered for secondary exits. Paul Panther said that funds would be located when we were ready to open another exit.
6. Emergency exit- recommendation made by Paul Panther to the committee that the current emergency exit should only be used sparingly, but that citizens would have to make a personal decision regarding their need to use the exit to the bridge rather than wait for the train to pass. Currently the gates to the emergency exit are open.
7. Issues with current emergency exit. – The only accidents that have been reported were during the shutdown over the summer, which occurred on Portage property. People need to use the road with caution as it is narrow and close to the tracks. There are concerns that rocks could fly from the track bed while trains are passing into cars.
8. High Speed Rail- we have not received feedback from the INDOT survey and NRPC has not met. Nothing to report.
9. Meeting adjourned. Next meeting scheduled for January 19, 2015 at 5:15 p.m.