A Board Meeting of the Friends of Bedford Depot Park was held at Bedford Depot Park’s Freight House at 120 South Road on Wednesday, September 1, 2004. President Jim Shea called the meeting to order at 3:09 pm. Members present were George Dalrymple, John Filios, Neil Leary, Ray Ruetenik, Barry Sampson, and Jim Shea.

Mr. Shea distributed the “Bedford Freight House, Monthly Financial Report, August 31, 2004.” The performance this year is better than 2003, but not up to our best year, 2002.

The Treasurer distributed the “Memberships and Financial Summaries, August 31, 2004.” At the end of August, we had $6,384.26 available in unrestricted funds. We had nine membership actions—new or renewals—since the last board meeting.

The Annual Meeting will be held on October 2, 2004, at 10:00, in the Public Meeting Room of the Bedford Free Public Library. B&M and Amtrak engineer Alan Macmillan will be the speaker. Among the business to be considered is a proposed Bylaws change, separating the duties of the Clerk and Treasurer. After the business meeting, we will move to the Freight House for lunch and fellowship. These plans were agreed to by all present.

Mr. Shea distributed “The Films of John M. Boardman, Volume Three, Expenses and Projected Income (September 01, 2004),” Purchasing the minimum order for retail ready—300 VHS tapes and 1,000 DVDs—the costs per unit are $0.356 preparation, $6.25 for a VHS and $3.41 for a DVD. If they are sold at retail, the break even point is 78 for VHS and 125 for DVD.

The presently scheduled sales events are Bedford Day in September, the North Shore Model Railroad Club show, Wakefield in October and the Two-Foot-Gauge Railroad Show in Taunton in November.

The plaque for the Loomis Street end of the interpretative track is presently in the proof stage before casting. The plaque will cost $825.00. The mounting is yet to be determined. A granite pedestal will cost $1,195.00 plus $195.00 installation. There was some discussion of why not use a boulder as the base. It will be suggested to Mr. Stickney that the bolder base be investigated before an order is placed for the base.

The Depot Park Advisory Committee held a meeting on August 18, 2004. Their initial emphasis is to fully rent the Depot. There are three suites in the Depot and only one is rented to a tenant at-will. The committee is planning to issue an RFP for tenants. Once the building is rented, historic preservation of the exterior will be considered. At present, only necessary repairs are being done to the building. Members of the committee are Richard Jones, Facilities Director; Rick Reed, Town Administrator; Richard Warrington, DPW Director; Angelo Colao, Selectman; Joseph Piantedosi; and James Shea.

Mass. Highway has not completed the items of the “punch list” on the site work such that control of the property can be transferred to the Town. Mass. Highway has returned the plans produced by VHB for the rehabilitation of the Freight House with comments. When the changes are made, the bid package should be advertised. Mr. Warrington has reported that the Town should advertise for bids of the intersection improvements and that it should be finished next year. After Mass. Highway has completed the exterior of the Freight House, the interior should be done by the Facilities Department, working on overtime, paid by the Revolving Fund. This should be less expensive that biding the project.

The minutes of the August 13, 2004, meetings were distributed. Mr. Leary moved that they be accepted with a correction. Mr.
Filios seconded and it was VOTED 5-0-0.

Mr. Filios has been asked by the Chamber of Commerce to present a short talk on Depot Park on September 9, 2004. Mr. Shea will provide him with some talking points.

Mr. Ruetenik reported that the Bicycle Advisory Committee has sent grant requests for $5,000 each to both Bedford's CPA Committee and to the organization "Bikes Belong" to create a plan to make a Rail Trail on the Reformatory Branch from Depot Park to Concord Road.

The meeting adjourned at 4:20 P.M.

George F. Dalrymple,
Secretary-Treasurer

Incorporated by reference:
"Bedford Freight House, Monthly Financial Report, August 31, 2004"
"Memberships and Financial Summaries August 31, 2004"
"The Films of John M. Boardman, Volume Three, Expenses and Projected Income (September 01, 2004)."