

June 30, 2011

RE: Plaistow/MBTA Layover Project

During the regularly-scheduled Atkinson Board of Selectmen's meeting on June 20, 2011, the Atkinson Commuter Rail Investigatory Committee submitted to the Board its report regarding Plaistow's proposed commuter rail layover yard.

The Committee voiced concerns regarding potential negative impacts on Atkinson residents if the layover facility were to be located as proposed, on the Blossom Road site, adjacent to, and including a portion of, one of the Town of Atkinson's large protected wetlands. The Committee was particularly apprehensive about the possible impact of noise, vibrations and fumes from the facility, and, absent very strict state legislation, locomotives idling in the yard in the wee hours of the morning, longer in the cold weather. The Board of Selectmen unanimously agreed that impacts of this nature on our quiet town were unacceptable.

While a significant number of residents were not opposed to commuter rail expansion into Plaistow and Southern New Hampshire, the Committee determined that the adverse impact of the Blossom Road site for a layover facility would be objectionable for the above-stated reasons.

In addition, this Board of Selectmen was troubled by a lack of transparency and inclusion in the process of planning and evaluating this rail project, noting that a layover yard at the Blossom Road site would affect Atkinson to a considerably greater extent than it would Plaistow.

It is our hope that the concerns and interests of the Atkinson community be recognized and fairly considered as this project progresses. Together we can reach a goal of expanded commuter rail service to our area in a manner that benefits everyone without imposing hardship.

Sincerely,

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William M. Bennett, Chairman

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Fred J. Childs, Jr

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William G. Friel