

B. & M. R. R.  
NEWBURYPORT BRANCH

F. D. 4477

G E N E R A L

Applicant's Statement.

This is a single track line composed originally of three small roads built in the Fifties by local interests for the purpose of reaching Newburyport via the original Boston & Maine, in competition with the Eastern Railroad, which ran through that point. All these roads are now merged. It is proposed to abandon about thirty miles. One-half mile between Wakefield Center and Wakefield Junction at the south end is to be retained.

The investment in road on the Boston & Maine books for the line to be abandoned is given as \$345,593. No special securities rest directly on this as the line is owned, and the general capitalization of the carrier applies.

The three roads comprising the Newburyport Branch were apparently built, as already pointed out, to reach Newburyport in competition and not for the purpose of local business. The general district is well served by highways, one of which runs in a straight line from Newburyport to Boston. The rail line is slightly circuitous.

Attorney Sullivan, for the protestants, filed the following:  
Certificate of Deputy Clerk of U. S. District Court, showing discharge of J. H. Hustis as Receiver, B. & M. R. R.,  
May 4, 1925.

A1441 BM Newburyport . 925 76.799

The application was signed by J. H. Hustis as President, November 29, 1924.

Lease of the Newburyport Branch R. R. to the B. & M. R. R., Feb. 21, 1860 -- stipulates 100 years maintenance and operation.

Lease of the Danvers R. R. to the B. & M., May 30, 1853; same provision.

#### Classification of Stations.

Aside from the termini, there are three stations also on other lines, viz., Danvers, West Peabody, Georgetown.

Stations near to stations to be retained on other lines:

Lowell St.,  
Collins St.,  
Tapleyville,  
Putnamville.

The number of passengers taking and leaving branch trains at these stations was referred to by Atty. Sullivan (the figures not being correctly quoted from the count made by the company) and Mr. Brigham admitted that there would be some injury to these riders as far as rail service was concerned.

Stations to lose rail service entirely:

Lynnfield Center

Topsfield

Boxford

Baldpate

Byfield.

Mr. R. H. Trafry, Essex County Commissioner, testified that the Newburyport Branch passes almost exactly through the center of the county. This and the other branches are needed to carry court officers, jurors, witnesses, etc., to the county seat, Salem; students to the Normal School, Agricultural School, St. John's School; visitors to the State Hospital and other institutions.

Mayor Bakenan, of Peabody (21,000 pop.) testified that the branch passes through West Peabody, which is the only part of the town affording an outlet to its fast growth, and that abandonment would stop that growth. He said that Peabody is about the largest leather manufacturing town in the world.

He suggested a curtailment of service or a raise in prices."

Mr. Joseph F. Smith, Chairman of Selectmen, town of Lynnfield, testified that the town has grown from 700 or 800 in 1854 to 1365 in 1924. It has 2 schools (275 pupils), 1 cider mill, 2 or 3 tonic factories and 1 shoe factory (total about 100 employees). It has 2 dealers in grain, hay, etc.; 2 in coal. There are 200 commuters to Boston in summer, 125 to 150 in winter. Real estate would decline  $2/3$  if the abandonment took place.

Under cross examination he stated that two-thirds of the most recent development in the town had taken place at South Lynnfield, where two fine highways meet, but he did not think that was the reason.

Geo. H. Bancroft, real estate dealer, Lynnfield Center, gave valuation figures for the town of Lynnfield and the opinion that abandonment would cause a loss of 50%.

Mr. Jasper Marsh, for protestants, suggested that the company eliminate ticket agents at stations on the branch, crossing tenders, and some trains. He would have a committee appointed and give them 1 year in which to work out a plan.

Jas. D. Sullivan, Insurance and Clothing business, Danvers, and President Merchants Ass'n, testified that he was trying to get a concern to locate in the town