

NEW HAMPSHIRE UNION LEADER

EDITOR'S PICK

Nonprofit likely to get historic Flying Yankee train for \$1

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John Koziol/Union Leader Correspondent File

The Flying Yankee train sits in the railyard of the Hobo Railroad in Lincoln as a nonprofit group, the Flying Yankee Association, is working to acquire it from the state, relocate it, and put it back into limited operation.

The state has started the bidding process to sell the historic Flying Yankee train for \$1.

The winner — likely a nonprofit committed to its restoration — must sign a preservation restriction in order to take on ownership.

The diesel-electric powered train is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, according to the New Hampshire Department of Transportation.

The department is accepting proposals for the “relocation and encouraged preservation” of the train and two cars, which are being stored in Lincoln. Proposals are due Jan. 3 at 3 p.m.

The three-car locomotive, which operated from 1935 to 1957, has been stored at the Hobo Railroad in Lincoln since 2005.

Last year, the Flying Yankee Association announced they were reviving efforts to restore the train, which was built in 1935 for the Boston & Maine Railroad as the third streamliner train ever built in North America. The state acquired the train in the late 1990s.

The association has worked with the state on acquiring the train for two years and will submit a bid for it, according to a news release. The request for proposals is a procedural process.

“The Flying Yankee Association is in a unique position, with both a dedicated team and strong partnerships, to ensure this beloved treasure not only remains true to history, but to have it ride down the tracks under its own power once again,” Brian LaPlant, chairman of the association, said.

The association has pledges which total \$235,000, which will be doubled by a donor up to \$500,000, according to the association. The pledges will be called in after an agreement with the state is in place, according to its website.

The Flying Yankee is one of only three such trains built in the 1930s by the E.G. Budd Company of Philadelphia. The train was known for its streamlined design and rounded nose and tail. It “evoked a forward-looking vision of the rapidly increasing pace of travel in the mid-20th century,” the proposal reads.

Earlier efforts by a previous group, Flying Yankee Restoration Group, tried to move the train to Concord as part of a transportation museum. While still in operation, the train was maintained at the former Concord Rail Shops complex on South Main Street.

The train had various routes throughout Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Maine. LaPlant said the association's goal is to have the train operate once again and the group has had talks about operating on the Conway Scenic Railroad.

For the most part, the train has been languishing at its storage site in Lincoln.

The Flying Yankee was included on the "Seven to Save" list compiled by the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance last year.

The four-page request for proposals includes details in rating criteria for the locomotive.

The train can be viewed from 10 a.m. to noon on Nov. 15 and components at a storage facility can be inspected from 1 to 2:30 p.m., according to the request.

MORE INFORMATION



New effort begins to revive the Flying Yankee train