



The Second Section



Minutes from the April 16, 2015 meeting

President Bernie Hanmore called the membership meeting to order at 6:30 p.m., in the conference room of the U.S. Bronze Foundry & Machine, Inc., located at 18649 Brake Shoe Road, Meadville, PA.

Attending the meeting were Bernie Hanmore, Dennis Mead, Ed Cronin, Carl and Vanessa Timko, Bill McComas, Jack Sheets, Tom Stewart, John Snyder, Pete Gifford, Wayne Brown, Jim Saulsbery, John Nagurney, and guest John Crooks of the Meadville Tribune.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Ed Cronin reported no income or expense activity for the past month. He did note that the amount of Mr. Miller's donation was classified as restricted funds, for the purpose of paying for the move of the B&LE boxcar. Ed also noted that a check donated to the Humane Society never cleared. It was thought to be lost in the mail. A decision was made to reissue the check. The donation was in honor of Mrs. Joyce Leech, wife of FCVRRHS member Dan Leech, who passed away on November 2, 2014.

Guest John Crooks was given a membership application before the treasurer's report was completed.

Committee Reports Museum

The only report from the museum committee was that the Annual meeting of the Heritage Center was moved to Monday, August 10, 2015. Refreshments will be served at 6:00 p.m., with the meeting to begin at 6:30 p.m.

Historical /Archives

No research was done this month for photos for the 2016 calendar or other projects in the works.

Property/Equipment

The lettering, striping, and logo needs to be painted on as soon as the weather permits. It is hoped the 518 could be finished before the track panel is installed, but it is not necessary.

Carl Belke emailed the FCVRRHS informing that he has talked with his maintenance of way chief, Rob Gilliland. The WNYP will begin installing the track panel when they get a "window" in the weather.

Jack Sheets informed the board that the paint inside the cabooses is flaking off and needs to be retouched.

Industrial Truck and Crane will be contacted as soon as the track panel is installed. ITC is the selected hauler and crane service

to bring the B&LE boxcar to Meadville for display at Pomona Park.

There have been questions as to where the Pennsylvania Railroad tool car would be displayed. Jack Sheets made some inquiries of what land is available to the FCVRRHS in the immediate area.

Mr. Charles Smock has a parcel that he may make available. The city of Meadville also has 75 feet in front of the 518 that may be used. Decisions concerning acquiring the needed space will be on future meeting agendas.

Jack also noted that National Fuel Gas is requiring 10 feet ahead of their line behind the cabooses. NFG also has lines on WNYP Railroad property.

Ed Cronin asked to have the signals stored at his home to be removed and possibly stored in the tool car.

Jack Sheets needs \$70 to meet the cost of renting a power washer to clean the wheel sets of the equipment at Pomona Park.

A private individual from Greenville has offered the FCVRRHS a Pennsylvania Railroad class X-23 boxcar, that was built in 1912. The boxcar has steel outside braces over wood sheathing. Some homebuilt cabooses were built out of cars such as these, including two that served on the Western Allegheny Railroad. Due to the cost of

moving and lack of space to display the boxcar, the offer was declined.

After the track panel is installed, the B& LE boxcar is set in place, the 518 is lettered, and all the equipment is coupled back together, the lighting will have to be adjusted, with a couple more lamps needing installed.

Public Relations/Education

Webmaster Dianne Jones sent an image of a bridge that appeared in the latest edition of the "*Valley Express*" and colorized it. The image is from Kevin Pipp. He had added large FCVRRHS lettering in clouds behind the bridge. It was asked if a photo of the Shenango River bridge would be more appropriate, since the proposed museum is to get a piece of that bridge for display.

Every member should have received a copy of the "*Valley Express*". There was one typographical error. "Bobbie Myers" should read as "Bobbie Moyers". Apologies to Ms. Moyers from the editor.

An email from a teacher and students from an unknown school sent thanks for the use of our website to help them complete their project. They asked if they could link to our website with their information to protect scale models of cars, planes, ships, and trains.

Budget/Finance

Several members have scrap metal waiting to be taken to

Lincoln Metal, but the price is considered too low to bother with now. At least \$15 more has been raised since the last meeting.

Shirts to be purchased as a fundraiser were discussed. The color of the shirts was established as gray at the last meeting. There are three styles to choose from at this meeting. Two were to be selected. They were Polo, T-shirts, and V-Necks. By a show of hands, the attending members preferred Polos and T-shirts. The vendors were next to choose from. It was decided to do business with a local company, which brought the choices to Laurie's Embroidery, Stitch-Art, and Timeless Creations. John Nagurney made a motion to accept Laurie's Embroidery as the producer of the shirts. John stated he has done business with them before, and they do very good work and easy to deal with. The motion was seconded and carried by a unanimous vote. Dennis Mead and Carl Timko were working on a 518 design for the T-shirts and an alternate design for the Polo shirts. Next will be determining the sizes needed and the quantity.

The FCVRRHS has an opportunity to apply for a grant from the Tom E. Dailey Foundation through their Railroad Heritage grant program. A decision was made to get all the information needed and have Melissa Mancotti from Allegheny College write it. Grants are available from \$1,000 to \$15,000 amounts. A grant application may be sent to acquire funds to help

maintain the railroad equipment at Pomona Park. Another may be sent to help maintain, organize, and store the collections and archives the FCVRRHS has acquired.

Special Events/Programs

The Erie Lackawanna Historical Society's 2015 Fall meeting in Cambridge Springs is September 18 and 19. Dennis Mead and the ELHS's Mike Connor will meet soon to go over the details of the event.

The following train shows are coming up in the next four weeks. April 25 is the Pittsburgh Model Railroad Jamboree at the Sewell Center at the Robert Morris College, just off I-376.

Registration before April 11 was \$35. Admission may be more now at the door. One of the perks is a six month membership to the NMRA for attending. There are to be clinics, sales, and displays. May 9 is National Train Day, and the Jamestown, N.Y. Gateway Depot is celebrating by having a train show at the old Erie Railroad depot, which was refurbished only a couple of years ago. The DuBois, PA Mall will also have a train show on May 9. The mall is located on Route 255, just off the I-80 exit 101.

The Painesville Railroad Museum is opening its doors on May 16 for a Railfanning Day at its former New York Central depot. The depot is located at 475 Railroad St. This is one of four such events this year at the museum. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Refreshments are available.

Model Railroad

Tom's Train Terminal will be closed from Saturday, April 18 to May 2. After which the store will be closed for good.

Since the model railroad club folded, there is a need for a list of model railroaders available to show their layouts.

Bob Hartle of the Clarion Model Railroad Club, passed away in March, while getting his model railroad ready for an operating session that was to be conducted the next day. Bob was known to many FCVRRHS members as the Digitrax decoder salesman at the Erie Train Shows. Bob was 67, and the second CMRC member to pass recently. The club's president, Rob Steiner passed in December.

Membership

The annual meeting and picnic is Thursday, June 18 at Pomona Park, weather permitting. Members can bring food to share, and their own chairs.

A reminder that membership dues will be due on June 30, 2015. Those that have joined since January will not necessarily have to pay another year's fee.

Next Meeting

The next membership meeting is Thursday, May 21, 2015, at 6:30 p.m., in the conference room of the U.S. Bronze Foundry & Machine, Inc., located at 18649 Brake Shoe Road, Meadville, PA. We hope to see you there!

