



The Second Section



Minutes from the April 15, 2010 meeting

President Dennis Mead called the board and general membership meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., in the conference room of the U.S. Bronze Foundry & Machine, Inc., located at 18649 Brake Shoe Road, Meadville, PA.

In attendance were Dennis Mead, Ed Cronin, Carl Timko, Bill McComas, Jack Sheets, Larry Johnson, John Snyder, Tom Collard, Wayne Brown, and Denis Manross.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Ed Cronin read the current balances to the attending members, as well as the expense of the insurance premium.

Committee Reports

Museum

Ed Cronin noted that the project grant for the museum will expire on June 30, 2010. It is hoped the project will be completed before then. If not, an extension on the grant may be requested.

There are now three possible sites for the museum: the 84 Lumber Co. site, the Bessemer (Street) building, and now the Erie Railroad freighthouse. It is planned to still use the 84 Lumber site for the feasibility and business plan study. In preparation, Porter Consulting Engineers are to come up with a

conceptual drawing of the museum. Also Greg Rademacher is to present our plan for Phase II evaluation to the DEP for approval.

A proposal was made to the Economic Progress Alliance to lease 7500 square feet of the Bessemer building. The museum would be responsible for taxes and insurance. One option could be to own the building and lease the property. This arrangement would release the museum of responsibility of environmental issues.

The old Erie Railroad freighthouse was recently announced it was being sold by Channellock. It has been used as the Little Champs Child Development Center.

Discussions regarding the freighthouse included a discovery of contamination that is drifting from under what is now Vantage, towards the freighthouse. Also discussed was whether the building is in the flood zone. The museum board will try to schedule a meeting with representatives of Channellock.

Adjacent buildings may possibly be used if they were affordable and available.

Historical/ Archives

Dennis Mead noted that the National Archives and U.S. Department of Transportation Reference

Services had no success in finding any more details regarding the Erie Railroad train wreck of August 6, 1939, in Meadville.

Property/ Equipment

The board is to try to schedule a meeting with Bob Callahan of the AC&J Railroad with regards to finishing the removal of the motor, generator, airtanks for the purpose of sending the shell to be painted. It was asked how much more work can be done by the membership. Most of the work would require heavy equipment to lift the components out.

Ed Cronin mentioned he is to receive a quote for hauling the 518 by truck from Silk Road Transportation, by April 16.

Dennis Mead has had no reply from Chris Callahan of the Norfolk Southern regarding an Erie Railroad signal.

Special Events/ Programs

The bull session at @ the Bank on Friday April 9, had eight attendees, ranging from ages 13 on up. Tom Collard described Nick Ozorak's operation of a virtual model railroad layout. This may be a good subject for future presentation.

A bus trip is tentatively scheduled to the Western Reserve Model Railroad

Museum and Train Show in Mentor, Ohio on Saturday, September 25, 2010, pending quotes from Anderson Coach and Cambell Tours. The museum tour is free, but the train show is at least \$7.00 for admission. A charge for the bus ride is expected also.

Other possible sites for a bus trip include the Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad, the AC&J Railroad, the Arcade & Attica Railroad, and the Olean, NY shops of the WNYF Railroad. Tom Collard will see if he can arrange a tour of the shops.

A model railroad weathering clinic will be held on the second floor of @ the Bank, 940 Park Avenue, Meadville on Friday June 11, 2010 between 6 p.m. and 9 p.m. The instructor is Al Notarione. There will be a charge of \$8.00 to attend the clinic.

An event featuring hands-on experiences will be held at the PMI building Wednesday, May 12, starting at 9 a.m. and lasting to 8 p.m. The FCVRRHS is to have a working switching layout, and will share a table with others. Volunteers are needed. It is planned to have enough volunteers to split the day into three shifts: 9a.m. to 1 p.m., 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., and 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Please call Ed Cronin at 763-6744 (after 10 a.m.), or email him at edsuecronin@windstream

.net. Some of the planned displays and experiences by the FCVRRHS may be measuring a length of rail with older micrometers or calipers, a display of the different scales of a boxcar for model railroading, and possibly a display of the evolution of the locomotive represented by scale steam and diesel locomotives.

An event that is being planned to coincide with one of the days the caboose will be open, is a poker run. Ed Cronin described the event where participants stop at designated addresses, or coordinations on their GPS systems, pick up a card and proceed to the next address. The person with the best hand at the end of the event would win a prize. A \$5.00 entry fee would be sought. A discussion of several cities to host the event included Meadville, Greenville, Franklin, Oil City, Corry, North East, and Titusville. Not all of the cities would be on the same run. September 5, 2010 is tentatively scheduled for the poker run.

A members-only tour of the Johnson-Shaw Stereoscopic Museum, on the corner of Chestnut Street and East Street, in Meadville, is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, October 16. The museum can handle a maximum of 30 members on this tour.

A tentative schedule of events - not including the caboose tour- is as follows:

May 12 - Techfest, at PMI, 9a.m. to 8 p.m.

June 11 - Weathering Clinic-@ the Bank, 940 Park Ave., Meadville, 6p.m. to 8 p.m.

June 17 - Annual membership dinner - Italian Civic Club, Water St., Meadville- 6 p.m.

September 25 - Bus trip to Mentor, Ohio -time and meeting place to be determined.

October 16 - Members only tour of Johnson-Shaw Stereoscopic Museum, Chestnut St., Meadville - meeting place and time to be determined

November 7 - Rainbow Gardens train show, Waldameer Park, Erie, PA - 10a.m to 4 p.m.

November - date to be determined - Cambridge Springs trolley station grand reopening.

December - dates and place to be determined- model railroad layout display.

Events and their dates are subject to change. In the event there is a change, every effort will be made to notify the members.

Public Relations/Education

For information relating to the annual dinner, June 17, email Carl Timko at blebuddy@yahoo.com. For information regarding the railroad/model railroad bull session on the second Friday of every month, contact Tom Collard at tcollard@ymail.com. For information regarding the

museum, contact Ed Cronn at edsuecronin@windstream.net.

The next edition of the "Valley Express" should be ready before May 12; 300 copies of the newsletter will be made.

Ed Cronin suggested polo shirts with a logo be made for purchasing. Carl Timko said he would contact Steve Bell of IMPR, who did the t-shirts last year.

Dennis Mead expressed the need to advertise every event. One suggestion was to have a balloon fly over the caboose during the Thurston Classic. Tom Collard suggested having rack cards, brochures, or flyers available for visitors at @ the Bank.

The open dates for the caboose tours were discussed. The tour is one Sunday per month, with an event scheduled. Hours are 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Possible events are a book signing by Erie author Ken Springirth, a poker run, a possible book signing by Thomas Kraemer, author of "The Bessemer & Lake Erie Railroad - A Tribute", possible cruise-ins by either a PT Cruiser club from the Erie area, or Classic Iron Car club of Crawford County. Other suggestions for events at the caboose include hotdog cookout, an appearance by a skilled Lego block builder, who builds model railroads from the blocks. An invitation to the Boy Scouts and Cub

Scouts to visit the caboose to earn their railroad and model railroad merit badges, respectively. Senior citizen groups are also welcome, however, if they need special assistance, an arrangement might be needed for help with boarding the caboose. The tentative schedule for the caboose tour is as follows:

Monday, May 31 (Memorial Day) - Memorial Day services at the Diamond.

Sunday June 20 - Thurston Classic balloon race, Ken Springirth book signing.

Sunday July 4 - event to be determined.

Sunday August 1 - Thomas Kraemer book signing.

Sunday September 5 - poker run.

All events are subject to change. Volunteers are needed for each day. Other caboose tours are by appointment.

Membership

All of the officers and board of directors whose terms are expiring agreed to stay on in their present posts.

The scheduled speaker for the annual dinner, June 17, is Steve M. Timko, Jr., who last worked for the WNYP RR. Mr. Timko will relate his experiences with the WNYP. Flyers will be readied by mid May.

Next meeting

The next board and general

membership meeting is scheduled for Thursday May 20, 2010, at 6 p.m., in the conference room of the U.S. Bronze Foundry & Machine, Inc., located at 18649 Brake Shoe Road, Meadville, PA.

