



The Second Section



Minutes from the April 19, 2012 meeting

Treasurer Ed Cronin called the board and general 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 Ed Cronin, Carl Timko, Bill McComas, Larry Johnson, Jack Sheets, Tom Collard, John Snyder, Al Reibel, Stan Niwa, and Ron Stafford. President Dennis Mead was unable to attend due to his treatments for his cancer.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Ed Cronin disclosed the monthly balances, including income from the ELHS Spring Meeting registrations, expenses, and the total in the 518 fund.

The report from the Model Railroad Club is not due until May, therefore, there is no report for April.

Committee Reports

-Museum-

The Northwestern Pennsylvania Railroad & Tooling Heritage Center is still in contention for a Northwest Pennsylvania Transportation Enhancements Program grant. The status of the grant should be known by May 22. If the museum committee is still in contention then, a

presentation will have to be made to try to secure the grant. Other grants the committee is working on are one from the Norfolk Southern Foundation, and one from the North American Railway Foundation.

The museum committee is also looking into acquiring the Cambridge Springs Trolley Station. The station was gifted to the Crawford County Historical Society with an endowment fund. Under terms of the contract, if the Crawford County Historical Society were not able to operate or maintain it, the endowment fund would be split among the CCHS, the Bethesda Childrens' Home and Penn State University. The Crawford County Historical Society has expressed that they are not able to maintain the station and have offered it to the Cambridge Springs Historical Society. The CSHS may not be able to operate it either, but wants to see it preserved.

According to terms of the contract, if the station were gifted to the CSHS or the Northwestern Pennsylvania Railroad & Tooling Heritage Center, both Penn State University and the Bethesda Childrens' Home would have to sign off. If acquired, an additional parcel outside the station, that still has rail installed, could be acquired.

The thought is that excursion trains could be operated from the trolley station.

Operations of the trolley station include using one room as a meeting room and to display small exhibits, and use the other room as a repository for artifacts.

-Property/Equipment-

The 518 received a coat of black paint after a crew pressure washed the unit at Jefferson.

The U.S. Army Reserves ran into budget problems to the extent that they are not able to haul the 518 this fiscal year or the next. The board discussed the various quotes from trucking and crane services. One thought was to consolidate the lifting, moving, and lifting into one day, possibly saving a sizeable portion of money. Several other contractors were discussed from whom quotes had not been obtained.

The board discussed what needs to be done to wire and illuminate the caboose, and eventually, the 518. It was hoped that at least the caboose could be lit up by May 5.

Jack Sheets reports that the caboose is ready for visitors. All merchandise and displays are now on board.

Maps to the model railroad tour and the Country Club will be available at the

caboose on May 5, when it will open at 9 a.m. and close at 2 p.m., to kick off the Erie Lackawanna Historical Society's Western Spring Meeting.

-Public

Relations/Education-

The Erie Lackawanna Western Spring Meeting will be May 5, at the Country Club, located at 15955 State Highway 86, Meadville, PA. Planned presentations are from Carl Belke, Mike Schleigh, and Stephen Tichenal, and possibly one other that hasn't been identified yet. Steve Timko declined to give a presentation.

Vendors at the meeting will be the ELHS, the FCVRRHS, and Ken Springirth, who will be selling and signing his books, including his new one on the Erie Lackawanna. Ken also has a recent book out on the Oil Creek & Titusville Railroad. The FCVRRHS will be selling its t-shirts and 2012 calendars. A sign-up sheet for reserving the 2013 Erie Railroad Historical Calendar will be present. It is expected the 2013 calendar would be published by November.

The schedule for the meeting and dinner is as follows: Set-up tables and displays - 2 p.m. to 3 pm.; Social time - 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.; Mike Schleigh will give

his presentation at 5 p.m. to 5:15 p.m., and concluding before dinner, which is at 6 p.m. After dinner, Carl Belke will give his speech on the WNYP Railroad and the short line industry. Stephen Tichenal will follow with a program on valuation maps. As stated before, there may or may not be one more presentation, but that hadn't been finalized by the compilation of this edition of "*The Second Section*".

The disappointing news is there will be no excursion train, even though all parties were working to make it happen. Liability insurance became too expensive and there was not enough time to negotiate and establish the fee to board and ride the excursion train, as well as assemble the train. Cars were to be borrowed from the Oil Creek & Titusville, with the WNYP providing the power.

It is hoped that as many members of the FCVRRHS attend the ELHS Spring Meeting as possible. Deadline for submitting your registrations is May 1, unless an arrangement can be made with the treasurer.

The "*Valley Express*" newsletter will be published after May 5. The older newsletters will be available at the ELHS Spring Meeting.

-Model Railroad-

Model railroad committee

chairman Tom Collard reported on the progress of the layouts in the model railroad club. The TT scale layout's lower loop will be in operation soon, making it the first of the layouts that will see some sort of operation. The N scale layout had a major setback in that the supports were warping badly and had to be removed. The supports will be replaced. The HO scale layout has its framework completed and is ready for the next phase of construction.

A clinic on DCC (digital command control) was hosted on the second floor in the @ theBank complex on March 29. Jason Sider and Scott Wilson gave instructions on how to install and operate plug and play decoders. The program was very valuable to those who attended. Programs and clinics such as this are expected to be scheduled during the year. Input from members will help in what programs will be well-received.

Model railroad shows in the area in the next three months include one on June 16 and 17 at the Perry St. Station in Titusville, PA. There also will be a major show in Monroeville, PA on July 21 and 22. Though it isn't a model railroad show, a railfanning day is scheduled at the depot along the CSX tracks in Painesville, OH on May 19. Two other days for

the railfanning day are planned later in the year.

-Membership-

The board has decided the annual business meeting and dinner will be held at the Country Club, 15955 Route 86, Meadville, Pa on Thursday, June 28, 2012. Social time will begin at 5 pm., with dinner at 6 p.m. Elections of officers are planned. President Dennis Mead plans to step down as president, but would like to remain on the board. A suggestion from the board is to have the Vice President Bernie Hanmore serve Dennis's remaining term (one year), while Denny becomes the Vice President. In the event that Bernie or Dennis cannot attend the board meetings, Ed Cronin or Carl Timko will conduct the meetings. Terms of members that are expiring are board of directors Jack Sheets and Bill McComas; both agreed to serve another two year term if elected. Ed Cronin has stressed that his term is expiring as treasurer and would prefer that someone else takes the position. In doing so, he prefers to be an assistant treasurer. Anyone interested in serving as treasurer, must be willing to attend the meetings, and keep accurate books. Ed will assist in any way possible.

Next Meeting

The next board and general membership meeting will be

Thursday, May 17, 2012, 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

