

The Second Section

Minutes from the August 21, 2014 meeting

President Bernie Hanmore called the membership meeting to order at 6:40 p.m. in the conference room of the U.S. Bronze Machine & Foundry, Inc., located at 18649 Brake Shoe Road, Meadville, PA.

Attending the meeting were Bernie Hanmore, Dennis Mead, Ed Cronin, Bill McComas, Larry Johnson, Jack Sheets, John Snyder, Carl and Vanessa Timko, Tom Collard, and Pete Gifford.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Ed Cronin read the current balances, including the funds that are restricted to a specific task. Also reported were the funds accumulated so far in the scrap metal drive. Members are encouraged to take their scrap metal to Lincoln Metals in Meadville, and donate the proceeds to the FCVRRHS.

Model Railroad Treasurer's Report

There was no treasurer's report, however a nice monetary donation from Al Reibel was noted.

Committee Reports

Museum

The Cambridge Springs trolley station is to have a new HVAC system installed

starting August 25, thanks to a grant from the Harold Heist Foundation.

Dan Higham and Sandy Porter will be pressure washing the basement of the station. FCVRRHS members will be able to see the progress of the work at the next meeting.

Historical/Archives

The publication of a 2015 calendar is left in doubt as there are no more quality photographs left in the Stuart Ladner collection. Dennis Mead is asking all members for quality photos to be used in the next calendar. If we are to have 2015 calendar, we need them to be sent to Mike Vickey by October. A question was raised as to the possibility of using the Crawford County Historical Society's Erie Railroad photograph collection.

Property/Equipment

Jack Sheets has two cans of gray spray paint to touch up the cabooses ends. A volunteer is needed to do the job.

An anonymous donor pledged \$10,000 to fund the move of the Bessemer and Lake Erie Railroad boxcar from the Lake Shore Railway Historical Society museum in North East to the Pomona Park display site in

Meadville.

Industrial Truck and Crane is the apparent low bidder to lift an dhaul the boxcar to Meadville. A track panel will be need to be built to make room at the site for the boxcar. The ground ahead of the 518 would need to be prepped as well. John Snyder will ask Terry Martin if he could remove the sod to ready the track extension.

Denny Mead will ask the board of the Lake Shore Railway Historical Society if it would be permissible to delay moving the boxcar until the spring.

No work has been done on the roof of the Pennsylvania Railroad baggage car, as of this date. Coating of the roof is expected to be done very soon.

A work session has been scheduled to paint the Erie Railroad S2 #518. Thursday, August 28, at 10:00 a.m. Members are asked to bring brushes. Bill McComas said he would get the paint.

The attending members discussed painting the stripes and stencilling the lettering.

Jack Sheets asked members for a total donation of \$250 to rent a steam jenny to clean the 518's trucks.

Public

Relations/Education

The editor of the

newsletter, "*The Valley Express*", Bill McComas, is looking for someone to replace him. If anyone is interested, please contact a board member.

John and Lynda Snyder were asked to write an article on building structures. The article is to include photographs.

Tom Stewart is working on a lead article about early lumbering by rail in Beaver Township.

The attending members discussed a need to revamp the website. No details were agreed upon. Dennis Mead did note that the website has had 19,000 hits so far. So it is being seen by the public.

Carl Timko would like to ask the membership to take a minute to say a prayer for our webmaster, Dianne Jones. Dianne will be undergoing tests for bone cancer. She is a breast cancer survivor and one of the nicest people you will ever talk to. We are thinking of you, Dianne.

Budget/Finance

Treasurer Ed Cronin is seeking someone to help with the treasurer's duties. If anyone is interested, please contact a board member.

The scrap metal drive will continue as it is starting to bring in some needed funds.

Carl Timko asked if the raffle permit lets the organization to a 50/50

drawing. Ed Cronin said he would look into it.

Carl also noted that there is a need to order more t-shirts before the November train show in Erie to sell.

We still haven't secured a train set to raffle off during the November/December holiday layout display. The FCVRRHS has raised money for Toys for Tots by raffling a train set.

Special Events/Programs

The Erie Lackawanna Historical Society 2015 Fall meeting will take place in Crawford County. Most of the activities will be in Cambridge Springs. The selection of dates have been pared down to September 18-20 or 25-27. The ELHS expects 50 to 100 attendees. Reservations will be arranged with the Riverside Inn of Cambridge Springs. Activities may include layout tours, a ride on the Oil Creek & Titusville Railroad, train show, clinics and seminars.

Suggested speakers include Dale Doctor on railroading in Cambridge Springs, Pete Gifford on the Atlantic & Great Western, Sandy Porter on the Keystone Ordnance Works, and Nate Clark on the trackage rights agreement between the Erie Railroad and the Bessemer and Lake Erie Railroad in the 1920's.

Fall is near, so train shows will be more abundant. Fostoria, Ohio will have its

Rail Festival on September 24. The Penn-Ohio Model Railroaders Club will have a train show at the VFW in Sharon, PA. The Great Berea Train Show will be held at the Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds in Berea, Ohio, on October 4th and 5th. The train show at Rainbow Gardens, in Erie will be November 2.

Model Railroad

Tom's Train Terminal has a rare TT scale SW9 for sale for \$130; one operates on the French Creek Valley Model Railroad Club layout at the @ The Bank shopping complex on Park Avenue, Meadville.

The model railroad club has acquired a Triplex engine (2-8-8-8-2). It is said to run very well. The HO scale layout is on hold for now, while the summer weather permits the organization to work on the display site at Pomona Park. The N-scale layout has track being laid.

The model railroad club received a \$150 donation from Al Reibel. Thanks, Al!

The attending membership would like

to contact fellow member Carl Ferguson to schedule a tour of his G-scale layout. A group tour may happen before fall.

Denny Mead has invited any member to travel up to Erie to see his G-scale layout.

Planning for the holiday season layout display has begun. One of the possibilities mentioned as a venue is the old Army/Navy store in the Downtown Mall in Meadville. Also previously mentioned was the trolley station in Cambridge Springs.

Membership

The secretary plans to advertise the next membership meeting in the Meadville Tribune so as to attract more members. Plans are to advertise in the “*Morning Planner*” column.

Next Meeting

The next membership meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 18, 2014, at 6:30 p.m., at the Cambridge Springs trolley museum, located off of U.S. Routes 6 and 19. Hope to see you there!

