



The Second Section



Minutes from the December 18, 2014 meeting

President Bernie Hanmore called the membership meeting to order at 6:38 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 Bernie Hanmore, Ed and Suann Cronin, Carl and Vanessa Timko, Jack and Linda Sheets, John and Lynda Snyder, Bill McComas, Larry Johnson, Tom Stewart, Tom and Sindi Collard, and Wayne Brown.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Ed Cronin submitted his monthly report of the organization's finances. It included the current balance, income from the Erie train show, and current Christmas display as well as membership renewals. Expenses included cost of the glass for the #518, Pipp Graphics, the table for the Erie trains show and the small games of chance permit that allows the FCVRRHS to hold a raffle to benefit Toys For Tots. Other expenses included rent for the model railroad club, a donation to the Humane Society in memory of Joyce Leech, gas for the truck to haul the layout and a sum withdrawn from the Bingham donation for the model railroad club.

Committee Reports

Museum

The Northwestern Pennsylvania Railroad and Tooling Heritage Center has had a document drafted after a court hearing, to record the Heritage Center as the final recipient of the funds from the Townley estate that bestowed the Cambridge Springs trolley station to three other entities. The trolley station ended up in the Heritage Center's hands after all the parties surrendered their right to it.

The Heritage Center filed a grant application from the Crawford Heritage Community Foundation for funds to pay for concrete work at the trolley station.

The Heritage Center hired RAYN Business Development for six months to help change the Heritage Center's website and come up with a fundraising plan. RAYN will be working eight hours per week according to the contract.

The Heritage Center is planning to change the displays in the glass cases that are in various places including the Crawford County Career and Technical Center. Photographs and artifacts are needed of the area of trolleys and early railroad operations.

Historical/Archives

Secretary Carl Timko met with Crawford County

Historical Society president Josh Sherretts and Beth Rekas to discuss permission to use the Erie Railroad photos and files for the purposes of producing calendars and research. It was requested that when the photos and materials are used that credit be given to the CCHS. Josh was to put forth the proposal to the CCHS board, but did not see any problem in letting us go forward with using the files. In exchange for using the files, the FCVRRHS would catalog and inventory the materials. It was later learned that an agreement was already in place from when Dan Higham was president of the CCHS.

Property/Equipment

Area businessman David Miller will be forwarding his donation to the FCVRRHS before the end of 2014. His donation will be instrumental in bringing the Bessemer and Lake Erie boxcar to Meadville. Thank you very much Mr. Miller!

With spring only a few months away, efforts to talk to WNYF Railroad president Carl Belke concerning installing a new track panel at the display site will convene. The track panel will enable placing the boxcar between the #518 and the cabooses.

Public

Relations/Education

Updates are now being made to the website by webmaster Dianne Jones. Photos and video are planned to be sent in soon to post on the website.

Dennis Mead is planning on writing an article for the "Valley Express". Tom Stewart is also planning to continue with his research on the logging railroads of the area. An old column in the newsletter, "Meet the Members", may be revived.

The only member to appear in the column was Wayne Brown, former trackman of the Bessemer and Lake Erie Railroad. Anyone interested in appearing in the column, please contact the editor.

As of the date of the December meeting, plans were set to have the Santa train in Meadville on December 20. Several members of the media and the fire department had been notified and invited. Santa's arrival on a WNYP train would take place at the Water St. extension crossing, beside the railroad display in Pomona Park and Seco-Warwick.

The drawing for the N scale train set is set for December 20 at noon. As of December 20, the remaining schedule was Christmas Eve, until 2 p.m, and the following Friday and Saturday. Teardown of the layout was set for Monday, December 29 at 10:00 a.m.

During the display of the

layout, an incomplete Lionel train set was donated to the FCVRRHS by a gentleman who wished it be given to someone that would enjoy it. Board member John Snyder did just that; giving the train set to a small boy who thought the world of his new train. Our organization thrives on members like John.

Budget/Finance

The t-shirt inventory is getting low. A new vendor for producing the t-shirts may need to be found. The IMPR local representative could not be reached. It is likely the new t-shirts will have the image of the #518. Artwork will be needed for the next vendor.

Special Events/Programs

Besides the Santa train that is scheduled for December 20, there are several train shows coming up in Ohio.

The Snow Dog Train show in Parma's UAW Hall will be January 3. The Antique Collectibles and Toy Show at the Lakeland Community College, in Kirtland is January 10. The Youngstown Model Railroad Association is having a show at McMenemy's Banquet Hall on Route 422 in Niles, Ohio. and the TCA Great Lakes Winter Meet is January 17 at the UAW Hall in Parma, Ohio.

Preparations are in the works for the Erie Lackawanna Historical

Society Fall meeting in Cambridge Springs. The meeting is set for September 18 and 19.

Model Railroad

All three layouts are progressing in their construction. The HO and N scale layouts are not ready to run, with the trackwork not yet complete. The TT scale layout is ready to run, but is having scenery installed. Members of the club usually meet at the Shops @ the Bank on Wednesdays.



Some sad news to report is the passing of Clarion Model Railroad Club founder, Rich Steiner, who passed away on December 26, at the age of 63. Rich was an electrician and a teacher at Triangle Tech in DuBois, PA. Rich was very interested in the progress of the French Creek Valley Railroad Historical Society. Rich's last act was disassembling the layouts and hobby shop that were available to the public at the Cranberry Mall in Seneca, PA over the holidays. Rich leaves behind his wife, Marlene, a son, Steven, and a daughter, Elizabeth. So long, Rich, you will be missed. Clear track ahead.

Membership

Anyone who still owes dues are encouraged to send them in. Members are encouraged to recruit new members. Added income from new dues are very much welcome and helps the FCVRRHS complete its projects.

Next Meeting

The next membership meeting is Thursday, January 15, 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. See you there!

