



The Second Section



Minutes from the January 15, 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, Jack Sheets, John Snyder, Tom Collard, Al Reibel, and Wayne Brown.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Ed Cronin disclosed the financial report for the month of December 2014. Included were the balances, the sales report from the sale of John Snyder's tools, the report from the Christmas layout, and the donation from Mr. and Mrs. David P. Miller. The donation from the Millers will enable the FCVRRHS to arrange transportation and crane services for the Bessemer & Lake Erie Railroad boxcar that is being loaned by the Lake Shore Railway Historical Society. The report from the sales of the Christmas layout includes sales of t-shirts, calendars, and magazines, plus the total from the donation box. The totals showed that this was the best year ever for the Christmas layout.

Ed also noted that he has changed the way bank statements will be received. The bank is now charging a \$2 service charge for

receiving paper statements. Ed changed that to an online statement.

The sales tax report for the past six months, has been filed with the appropriate authorities, as has the annual corporate report.

Committee Reports Museum

Work at the Cambridge Springs trolley station continues with the front door being completed. Work on the side door, the floors, and painting will be next on the agenda. Later, the display cases that have been built plan to be moved in. The cases will hold artifacts and documents portraying the history of the area railroads and industries.

The Heritage Center received the settlement from the Townley estate, which will provide funds to keep the trolley station in decent condition.

Progress continues in acquiring a suitable building for the museum. The board of the Heritage Center is looking at ways to acquire one of the buildings that made up the Erie Railroad's machine shops.

(editor's note: It has been learned that the former Erie Railroad freight house in Meadville has been acquired, or leased, by Cox and Kanyuck Electric of Guys Mills. The freight house had at one time been the focus as a home for the museum).

The Heritage Center is hoping to acquire Allegheny College's display that includes three I-Pads for use in a visual information display. It is thought that the I-Pads could be used to show information of the trolleys, trains, and industries of the area.

Historical/Archives

No report was made at the meeting, however, Carl Timko and Tom Stewart plan to research the Erie Railroad photo files at the Crawford County Historical Society, for the purpose of selecting quality photos for the 2016 calendar.

Property/Equipment

As reported earlier in this newsletter, Mr. and Mrs. David P. Miller donated a sizable amount to fund the transportation of the Bessemer wooden boxcar from North East to Meadville, and the crane services to place it on the display track in Pomona Park with the #518 and the caboose. Thank you, Mr. and Mrs. Miller!! As soon as the weather allows, work crews from the Western New York and Pennsylvania Railroad and the FCVRRHS will install an additional twenty feet of track panel to enable the boxcar to be placed behind the #518. Tom Collard mentioned as soon as the time is right, he will contact Carl Belke and Brent Hornstrom of the

WNYP RR, to set a date to begin work.

Denny Mead proposed to paint the Pennsylvania Railroad tool car in the maintenance-of-way yellow, with black lettering. Displaying the former baggage car in this scheme, would save a lot of work and money trying to reconvert the car back to the baggage configuration. The doors would not have to be rebuilt.

Public Relations/Education

Changes are starting on the website (www.fcvrrhs.org). Several updates need to be made in content and design.

Submissions will be needed for the Spring edition of the newsletter, "*Valley Express*". A lead story is not ready as yet. Several other choices for a lead story are being examined. I was discussed about reprinting the last issue, should the FCVRRHS get a table at the Erie Train Show in March. More on that later in this "*Second Section*".

An old column to appear in the "*Valley Express*" will be "*Meet the Members*". Jack Sheets, a director for the FCVRRHS, will be featured. The column will contain a short biography in relation to the FCVRRHS and a photo. All members are welcome to participate. The only other member to be featured is Wayne Brown, who worked on the

B & LE as a trackman.

The "Christmas layout" had very few complications during the time it was displayed. Visitors had nothing but praise for the layout and the efforts behind displaying it. The largest number of visitors came the day after the Meadville Tribune ran an article featuring the layout. Bernie Hanmore thanked all those that helped with the transportation of the layout and the tending of the layout at the Shops @ the Bank. The team effort was a large part in the best sales record ever for the layout.

Budget/Finance

The big topic of discussion at this meeting was finding a vendor for the next batch of shirts. A raise of hands showed that most preferred a polo shirt as opposed to a t-shirt. Several vendors were checked out and discussed. Laurie's Embroidery of Meadville, gave a rough quote of \$16 for t-shirts with three color full fronts, sizes Small to XL. Size XXL would require another \$1.50 and XXXL another \$2.00. Polo shirts, with a heart region logo, sizes Small to XL are \$18, XXL are \$20, while XXXL sizes are \$21. Prices were for an order of 24, and brands could decide whether the cost would be more or less. The prices are wholesale, as the organization would have to mark the price up a bit to make a small profit.

IMPR, the former silkscreener that made the t-shirts before has moved to Colorado, but still does shirts and other merchandise for area businesses. IMPR did not give a rough quote and prefers to do tees instead of polos.

Jack Sheets visited Stitch Art of Conneaut Lake and received a quote of \$7.72 per (tee) shirt. V-necks were another 28¢ per shirt. Logos were silk-screened on, including polos.

Excel Sportwear of Trafford, PA does excellent artwork, and prefers to do their own artwork. Minimum order for light colored shirts were 48 to 60, while the minimum order for dark colored shirts is 72. Wayne Brown brought in a shirt he purchased for \$23 retail at the fireman's convention and parade in Meadville this past year.

Another option is embroidery by a private individual; the prerequisite is the organization would have to provide the shirts.

Currently, Mike Vickey, of North East, is working on the artwork for the #518. Tom Collard said it was possible to get Heather Reichel to photograph the #518 after it has been painted and then use the image for the shirts. Heather is a professional photographer that does work for the Meadville Tribune.

It was noted that backgrounds can be

eliminated by graphics arts companies, of which there are several in the area.

The decision to select a vendor has been delayed until the next meeting so more information will be on hand to use.

The scrap metal drive will continue. Members are encouraged to take their scrap metal to Lincoln Metals in Meadville, then donate the proceeds to the FCVRRHS. Members who do not have a suitable vehicle can contact a board member to arrange a pickup.

Jack Sheets is still collecting donations for renting a power washer to clean the wheels of the #518. He needs \$200 and is still short on the funds. He plans to rent the machine in the spring.

Special Events/Programs

Arrangements are being made to secure speakers for the Erie Lackawanna Historical Society Fall meeting in Cambridge Springs for September 18 and 19. Pete Gifford will speak on the Atlantic & Great Western Railroad. Dale Docter will speak on Cambridge Springs hotels and the associated railroads. Sandy Porter is to be contacted about speaking on the Keystone Ordnance Works and its association with the Erie Railroad. Steve Timko, Jr. volunteered to speak about the Oil City branch. Nate Clark declined to speak on

the trackage rights agreement between the Bessemer and Lake Erie Railroad and the Erie Railroad.

Upcoming train shows include the TCA Great Lakes Div. Winter Meet on February 28 at the UAW Hall in Parma, OH. March 1 is the Erie Train Show at Rainbow Gardens, at which the FCVRRHS will not have a table this time, due to lack of merchandise available to sell. It is planned to have a table at the November show. March 14 and 15 is the Western Reserve Div. 5 Railfest at Lakeland Community College in Kirtland, OH.

For the large scalers, the East Coast Large Scale train show in York, PA is March 27 and 28.

Model Railroad

Progress reports from the model railroad club show that the TT scale layout is having scenery installed. The N scale layout is nearly complete with track installation on the one side, with the exception of industrial sidings. The HO layout has not had much progress in the past couple of months.

It is with great sadness to report that the founder of the Clarion Model Railroad Club, Rich Steiner, passed away at the age of 63, on December 26, after helping



Rich Steiner with the teardown of the Cranberry Mall display and hobby shop. Rich was very interested in the progress of the French Creek Valley Railroad Historical Society.

Another passing of a fellow model railroader is Floyd "Steven" Regruth, age 45 from cancer. Steve was the Erie Amtrak stationmaster and an engineer for the Erie Zoo.

Membership

There were no reports from the membership committee.

Next Meeting

The next membership meeting will be Thursday, February 19, 2015, in the conference room at the U.S. Bronze Foundry & Machine, Inc., located at 18649 Brake Shoe Road, Meadville, PA..



