

The Second Section

Minutes from the January 17, 2013 meeting

Vice President Dennis Mead called the membership meeting to order at 6:26 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 Dennis Mead, Ed Cronin, Carl Timko, Bill McComas, Jack Sheets, Larry Johnson, John Snyder, Tom Collard, Stan Niwa, and Al Reibel.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Ed Cronin gave a detailed fiscal report on the last six months of the fiscal year for the FCVRRHS. Included in the report were expenses related to the moving of the 518.

Model Railroad Club

Treasurer's Report

Model Railroad Committee chairman Tom Collard submitted his report on the balances of the French Creek Valley Model Railroad Club. Tom noted income was from dues and sales of used equipment, while expenses are from the rent.

Committee Reports

-Museum-

As reported in the last meeting, the switch resting along the Spring St. extension belongs to the contractors who ripped up the line from Meadville to

the former American Viscose. Their possession is from wording in their contract as part of their payment. Jack Sheets will attempt to contact the owner, Bob Kanuth, to ask if the switch is available. Parts of other switches are stored on the property of the Economic Progress Alliance. Ed Cronin estimated to install the siding on the museum site, 200 ties, 400 tie plates, and 800 spikes will be needed.

After inspecting the portal of the former Shenango bridge, it was found the header of the structure was rotting and rusted away, due to decades of steam locomotive smoke billowing into it. The header will need replaced. Ed raised the question of whether to sandblast and paint the portal or just oil it down and keep its current finish.

A plan of action for 2013 relating to the FCVRRHS was briefly discussed. Two work crews need assembled to retrieve ties and move them to the museum site. Anyone interested in helping out, please call a board member, or email the secretary at blebuddy@yahoo.com.

Before laying the ties, the site needs graded and ballast laid. Then the ties can be laid, after which the tie plates can be installed, so the rail can be laid. All this is expected to happen before June 15. The FCVRRHS is expected to

assist Melissa Mann regarding the Shenango bridge portal.

The organization will need to look for a #8 switch with 132 pound (per yard) rail.

The last item listed is beginning the silent phase of the capital campaign of the museum by July 1.

Ed Cronin discussed an idea of painting a railroad map of northwestern Pennsylvania on the floor of the proposed museum, with certain points on the map coinciding with model railroads built to represent the towns on the line(s). A train will be seen and then appear to move on to the next destination along the line, where the same train would seem to appear at this juncture.

No progress can be reported on the acquisition of the Cambridge Springs trolley station. If the current owners, or the parties that were to receive the station do not or cannot accept it, the Heritage Center would like to take ownership of the station. If ownership were procured, a strip of land behind the trolley station may be purchased for the purpose of erecting a pole barn for use in storing the model railroad, artifacts, and possibly cars and motorcycles.

-Property/Equipment-

Work that is planned in the spring to be done on the #518, includes installing the

hood, doors, and hatches, the radiators, steps, and couplers. There may be someone outside the organization that will be willing to paint the striping and apply the decal on the frame and hood. It was suggested that the railings be kept off until the painting is done.

No new reports concerning the signal mast were made. There is still wiring to be done to the signal head. The number plate seems to be ready to install on the mast. Some hardware is still needed to completely restore the signal and mast.

-Historical/Archive-

Ed Cronin returned the 20 calendars that he planned to sell to an associate of his. That brings the total of calendars still available up to 33. There are others still on consignment with other businesses.

Dennis Mead gave a brief history of the line that serves the former Keystone Ordnance Works south of Meadville. A GE 65 ton locomotive that used to work at the facility currently works on the South Branch Valley Railroad. Dennis posed the possibility of running an excursion train from the former KOW property to Stony Point and return.

-Public Relations/Education-

Editor Bill McComas is currently preparing the next

issue of "*The Valley Express*" newsletter. He would like to include photographs of the benchwork of the three model railroads the model railroad club are currently building. He also plans to include a summary of an introductory class on model railroading recently held by Tom Collard.

-Model Railroad-

Progress on the three layouts is coming along nicely. The HO scale layout has most if not all of its benchwork completed. John Snyder reported 84 feet of track has already been laid. The TT scale layout has received bracing for the benchwork, and the turnouts that Tom Collard acquired has arrived. The N scale layout benchwork is still being done. Work sessions are now done on Wednesday afternoons on the HO layout, while crews working on the TT scale and N scale layouts will report on Sunday evenings. This is to control the amount of people working in one place at one time.

Three train shows of note were reported by the secretary. On February 17, the Frosty Rails 2013 show, hosted by the Beaver-Lawrence Railway Historical Society will be held at the Shenango Township VFD Social Hall, located at 2424 E. Washington St., New Castle, PA. The hours are 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Admission is \$4 ; children under 12 are granted free admission.

Railfest 2013, hosted by the NMRA Division 5 is March 16 and 17, at the Lakeland Community College, Route 306, Kirtland, Ohio. Admission is \$7 for individuals, \$12 for families. The college is located just south of the interchange with I-90.

The Railroad Prototype Modeling - East show is March 22 and 23 at the Ramada Inn, Route 30, Greensburg, PA. Registration is \$35; the banquet is \$89; and there is a special rate for hotel rooms at \$89 per night. There will be layout operation sessions after 6 p.m. at local residences on Thursday, March 21. Operating layouts will be toured on Sunday, March 24. Vendor tables are available for \$20 each.

These events are being advertised on the FCVRRHS's website at www.fcvrrhs.org.

-Membership-

We are saddened to report that one of our members, Dr. Robert Cupper, passed away on January 4 of leukemia. Dr. Cupper was a professor at Allegheny College and was seen frequently at the area train shows.

A proposal was made to raise the rates on the junior memberships from \$1 to \$5 per year. The issue was tabled until the next

meeting.

A proposal to institute a movie or slide-show night was made. Attendance would be free to members, while a small fee would be charged to non-members. A venue for the event will have to be found. Some concur that a social hall at a Meadville church would suffice. The Lake Shore Railway Historical Society has a similar event in North East at their former New York Central depot.

Next Meeting

The next membership meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 21, 2013, 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.

