



The Second Section



Minutes from the July 16, 2009 meeting

President Dennis Mead called the board and general membership meeting to order at 6:06 p.m., in the conference room of the U.S. Bronze Foundry & Machine, Inc., located at 18649 Brake Shoe Road, Meadville, Pa. Attending members were Dennis Mead, Ed Cronin, Carl Timko, Bill McComas, Jack Sheets, Larry Johnson, Tom Collard, and John Snyder.

The first order of business was to approve the minutes from the June 18, 2009 meeting. Dennis ordered the minutes reviewed, after which a motion was made to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously by the attending members.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Ed Cronin disclosed the amount of cash on-hand. He also noted there were 13 members, less one that renewed at the evening's meeting, that have not renewed their membership. Notices will be mailed out to those that have not sent in their dues as yet.

Ed also informed the attending members that the yearly required forms were filed with the IRS, the Pennsylvania Treasury and the PA Bureau of Charitable Organizations.

Old Business - Property and Equipment

Dennis Mead, Ed Cronin, and Tom Collard recently met with Bob Callahan, president and chief operating officer of the Ashtabula, Carson, and Jefferson Railroad, concerning the progress to prepare the #518 to the painters and then Meadville. Mr. Callahan informed our representatives that the AC&J does not have the manpower or time to disassemble the #518 themselves. He suggested that the FCVRRHS do the work, with some assistance from the AC&J, such as lifting the motor and other heavy components, and torching off rusted bolts. Some components have already been removed, particularly from the cab interior. Mr. Callahan also stated he would like the air reservoirs that are situated near the fuel tank.

A discussion ensued concerning the current condition of the locomotive and the required work that will be needed to get it ready for shipping to the sandblaster and painter. Ed noted that the hood doors would need to come off, as well as the hood. Also the mounting bolts for the prime mover and all connections, such as wiring and fuel lines would need to be removed

or disconnected. It was noted that the crane the AC&J had expected to arrive to do the removal of the motor and lift the heavy components out, has been ruled out. Another source for a crane will have to be located.

Ed noted that a project manager, project coordinator and project scheduler would be needed to organize the work teams and schedule. It is estimated that fifteen trips with a four to five man workcrew will be needed to complete the disassembly. President Mead asked the secretary to request members to volunteer their services. Contact Ed Cronin, Dennis Mead, or Carl Timko if you are available. Former railroad personnel who have some knowledge or are interested in helping are welcome. We also may be able to recruit members from the Lake Shore Railway Historical Society.

Please note that safety shoes, safety glasses and gloves should be worn on the site. The work can start as soon as the AC&J can move the locomotive beside their engine shop.

Old Business - Public Relations/Education

Jack Sheets informed the attending members that the magazines were moved to

room 212 of the U.S. Bronze for temporary storage. These magazines will be used to sell at the caboose.

Old Business – Membership

Jack said he would like to make reservations with the Elk's Lodge of Meadville for the annual dinner of June 2010. One point of discussion was whether to have the dinner on the usual third Thursday, which usually conflicts with the Night Glow of the Thurston (hot air balloon) Classic.

It was noted that former president of the FCVRRHS has resigned his position on the Heritage Center board, as well as his membership with the FCVRRHS, so that he can accept a new position in North Carolina. Tom Collard motioned to grant Larry an honorary lifetime membership for his past efforts, donations and services. The motion was seconded by Ed Cronin and approved by an unanimous vote of the attending members. Thanks again, Larry.

New Business – Museum

Meetings are scheduled between the Northwestern Pennsylvania Railroad and Tooling Heritage Center board of directors and consultants from the Ann Barton Brown and Pashek

Associates companies on July 21 through July 23 to lend their expertise in starting and managing a museum. The schedule also includes separate meetings with the Crawford County Convention and Visitor's Bureau, the Crawford County Historical Society, the National Tooling and Manufacturing Association, the Johnson-Shaw Stereoscopic Museum, the Meadville Council on the Arts, and the French Creek Valley Railroad Historical Society. They also plan visits to the Pomona Park display site, the 84 Lumber Co. property, the Johnson-Shaw Museum, and the Foriska Machine Shop.

Ed Cronin said after another visit to the 84 Lumber Co. property, the buildings seem in very usable condition. The 84 Lumber property includes acreage between the WNYP Railroad and Bessemer St.

Also noted was the property of the Meadville Moving and Storage is for sale. The Mervine family owns the property and has listed it with the Howard Hannah Real Estate firm. It may be possible to negotiate with the current or subsequent owners for easement between their property and the 84 Lumber Co. property.

Tom Collard noted that students of Allegheny College gave a presentation on the history of the tooling industry. He asked if this

could be used in regards to the museum.

New Business – Model Railroad

The model railroad layout may be displayed at Crawford County Historical Society's newest acquisition, the Cambridge Springs trolley station. The board is waiting for a report from Dan Higham.

New Business – Public Relations/Education

The FCVRRHS received a thank-you letter from the Titusville Historical Society for participating in their One-Day Museum at the Perry Street Station in June.

New Business – Special Events/Programs

The board discussed having a fall excursion between Meadville and Corry over the WNYP Railroad, to raise funds for the FCVRRHS. Tom Collard said he will follow up by contacting the railroad's president and honorary FCVRRHS member, Carl Belke. The event would need advertising, either by radio and/or newspaper.

Also discussed, was the Santa Claus train event. The event could have Santa on the train from Meadville to Cambridge Springs and meet the children, and then ride back to Meadville and eventually up to Diamond

Park to help light the trees. Another scenario would have the children and parents ride the train from Meadville and meet Santa at the trolley station in Cambridge Springs.

*New Business –
Property/Equipment*

The display site now has an orange fence sealing off the caboose.

The railwork still needs completed before the #518 is set on the display track. The track needs leveled and the portion under the caboose needs raised. The joiner bars used to fasten the rails are stored in the caboose.

Ed Cronin made a motion to contract out the trackwork. Tom Collard seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote by the attending members. Two possible contractors are Delta and a crew headed by Dwight Darwin and Bill Rose.

Tom Collard reported no visitors on July 12. Voluneers are still needed each Sunday through Labor Day, so please consider a Sunday afternoon and contact Denny Mead, Jack Sheets, or Carl Timko.

The Lake Shore Railway Historical Society of North East, Pa. would like to have the signal mast that they donated to the FCVRRHS removed soon. They also have a signal head available. Jack Sheets said he would talk to Dan Higham about

using one of his trailers to go up and get the mast. It was decided to meet on a weekday to go up and get the mast.

The base for the signal mast would need installed so the mast could be set in place when the crane is at the display site to set #518 in place.

A letter of appreciation was sent to Larry Smith for his efforts during his years with the FCVRRHS, including his term as president and his term on the board of the Heritage Center. He was also thanked for donating his collection to the FCVRRHS.

Jack noted no one in the organization is qualified to make an assessment on any donated items.

President Mead asks if anyone checks out any donated material that they make a list of the material for inventory purposes and forward it to Carl Timko.

*New Business –
Membership*

We need input from all members concerning the types of activities they would like to have installed. Some of the suggestions were train trips, a day for the members on the AC&J, slide shows, DVD night, a Labor Day picnic, an Easter egg hunt in the autumn for kids. Members , please submit your ideas to Dennis Mead or Carl Timko.

The next board and general

membership meeting will be August 20, 2009, at 6:00 p.m., in the conference room of the U.S. Bronze Foundry and Machine, Inc., located at 18649 Brake Shoe Road, Meadville, PA

