



The Second Section



Minutes from the June 18, 2009 meeting

President Dennis Mead called the board and general membership meeting to order at 8:20 p.m, in the ballroom of the Elk's Lodge (BPOE #219), located at 15438 State Highway 86, Meadville, PA. The Elk's Lodge was the venue for this year's annual membership dinner and business meeting. The meeting convened after the dinner and a slideshow presentation by special guest Carl Belke, president and Chief Operating Officer of the Western New York & Pennsylvania Railroad.

Attending the dinner and meeting were Dennis and Donna Mead, Carl Timko, Jack and Linda Sheets, Bernie Hanmore, Al and Brenda Reibel, Bill and Yetivemarie McComas, Larry Johnson, Huntington Christie, Bob Bingham and his wife, Tom Collard, Dave Hollern, and Scott Ladner.

Dennis opened the meeting by recognizing Treasurer Ed Cronin for his expertise in the financial department and for his service on the board of directors of the Heritage Center. Also recognized were Carl Timko for his efforts as secretary of the organization; Hunt Christie for his expertise and leadership in building the new track panel; Bill McComas for writing and publishing the *Valley Express* newsletter; Larry Smith for

all his hard work and leadership in both the FCVRRHS and the Heritage Center; the Board of Directors for all their efforts in leading the organization towards its goals; Jack Sheets for the work he does in and around the caboose; and Tom Collard for lending his expertise in the operations of a railroad and for inviting the special guest speaker, Carl Belke.

Elections

The first order of business was the elections of officers and the board of directors. The president, secretary, and three board of directors' seats were being voted on. The results were Dennis Mead retains the presidency, Carl Timko retains his post as secretary, Board of Directors 1, Hunt Christie, Board of Directors 2, Larry Johnson, Board of Directors 3, Tom Collard. Hunt and Larry ran unopposed, while Tom won by a majority over incumbent Jim Cray and Al Reibel.

Treasurer's Report

The treasurer's report was submitted via email by Ed Cronin, who could not attend the dinner and meeting. Secretary Carl Timko read the report, which also included a report on the fiscal year.

Old Business - Public Relations/Education

Dennis noted that a letter of appreciation was sent to Mr. Frank Duda and his crew for the removal of a portion of a concrete pad supporting one of the machines on display. They also spread ballast over the new track panel.

The new batch of FCVRRHS T-shirts are in. Forty-eight were ordered and are still selling for \$15.00 each. New sizes are children's medium and large, adult sizes large and extra large. We still have a number of adult smalls as well.

As always, we are in need of volunteers for the Sunday caboose tour. If a member would like to participate, please inform Dennis Mead, Jack Sheets, or Carl Timko.

The Titusville One-Day Museum is to be held on Saturday, June 20, 2009, two days after this meeting. Al Reibel will represent the organization as well as Larry Johnson, who also is representing the Johnson-Shaw Stereoscopic Museum.

Old Business - Model Railroad

It was noted that the Crawford County Historical Society has not yet accepted the trolley station in Cambridge Springs, due to a fuel tank buried in the

immediate vicinity from a former gas station. Once the CCHS approves the acquisition, approval for displaying the FCVRRHS model railroad layout should be forthcoming.. This could happen as late as next year . If so, the layout will likely be displayed at the Downtown Mall. If it is approved to display the layout at the trolley station, the layout will not be displayed at the mall.

Old Business - Property/Equipment

Jack Sheets said he has not continued with any further negotiations to acquire the service of a job johnny for use at the display site. Prices quoted by a local provider were not conducive to the budget.

With the generous donation of several railroad related VHS video tapes, an interest in establishing a library for the members was generated. Other items , when acquired, may also be included in the library. Members would be able to sign the items out and review them at home, then return them once done.

Jack Sheets noted that the painting of the interior of the caboose is done for now. The walls are complete. The floor may be done after the closing of the caboose to the public in September.

Old Business - Museum Representatives of the Ann

Barton Brown Co. and the Paskek Associates will be meeting with the Heritage Center, their respective boards, and visit the facilities soon, with regards to the planning of the museum.

The current property (in the vicinity of the caboose display site) had one minor issue. The former Atlantic Gas Company had an underground storage tank buried nearby. Soil tests showed no residue issue.

The 84 Lumber Company property has a soil contamination issue, which caused the purchasing party to back out of the deal. However, an investigation by the Heritage Center indicated that the issue is not as bad as first thought. The major concern was the immediate site where the roundhouse was located. It was noted that an investigation to determine whether 84 Lumber was freed of any obligations for cleanup when they purchased the property , should be made.

Old Business - Other

Member Bob Bingham asked what became of the meeting regarding high-speed rail service between Cleveland and Buffalo. Dennis informed the group that an email was sent out that the meeting had been canceled. President Obama was committing to high-speed rail in the midwest and California.

Old Business - Membership

Member and former FCVRRHS president, Larry Smith, has resigned his membership and his secretary post with the Heritage Center. Larry is moving south to where a new career is waiting him. Larry has offered his collection to the organization. President Dennis Mead directed the secretary to write a letter of appreciation to Larry for all his efforts and leadership. Thank you, Larry!

New Business - Property/Equipment

Several companies' rates will be compared to lift and haul the #518 to Meadville. They include a company from Finlay, Ohio, Chatterton of Sharon, PA , and the firm that moved the GE 25 ton locomotive from near Warren, PA to North East for the Lake Shore Railway Historical Society.

Dennis expressed a need to meet with Bob Callahan, CEO of the Ashtabula Carson, & Jefferson RR to get preparations started for the move of the ALCO S2, before the deadline of the accepted grants.

New Business - Public Relations/Education

Bernie Hanmore volunteered to help update the website in the absence of webmaster, Jonathan Clark.

Jonathan is currently in basic training at Fort Sill.

As noted in the Old Business section of this newsletter, the new T-shirts are in. To facilitate members from out of the area to purchase a t-shirt, we can now offer them through the mail. Only checks or money orders will be accepted. To order a T-shirt, a member will need to state the size(s) needed and submit \$20.00 in check or money order to FCVRRHS/T-shirt, P.O. Box 632, Meadville, PA 16335. The price is including \$5.00 shipping via Priority USPS delivery. One shirt per envelope will be sent.

This idea was not reviewed at the business meeting, but approved thereafter.

New Business - Membership

The last day for the \$2.00 membership discount was June 18, 2009. Dues are to be in to the treasurer by June 30, 2009. Afterward, notices will be sent to the members that haven't renewed.

An honorary membership was presented by Dennis Mead to special guest Carl Belke for his appearance and presentation at the dinner and business meeting.

Jack Sheets mentioned a work crew would be appreciated to help move the collection of Larry Smith to a designated storage site.

The next meeting will be Thursday, July 16, 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

