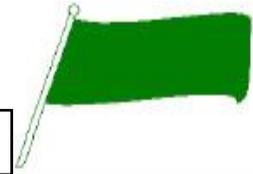


The Second Section



Minutes from the March 15, 2012 meeting

Vice President Bernie Hanmore called the board and general membership meeting to order at 6:29 p.m., in the conference room of the U.S. Bronze Foundry & Machine, Inc., located at 18649 Brake Shoe Road, Meadville, PA. President Dennis Mead was absent due to his recovery from cancer.

Attending the meeting were Bernie Hanmore, Ed Cronin, Carl Timko, Bill McComas, Larry Johnson, John Snyder, Tom Collard, Jack Sheets, Tom Stewart, Ron Stafford, Al Reible, and Stan Niwa.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Ed Cronin submitted his financial status report for the month. Income from the Rainbow Gardens train show in Erie was mentioned. The organization has received seven dinner reservations so far.

Model Railroad Club

Treasurer's Report

Tom Collard, chairman of the model railroad club, submitted the month's financial report. Included were income from sales of donated equipment and sales at the Rainbow Gardens train show. Expenses were for lumber, railroad equipment and rental space for the club.

Donations were model railroad products, foam and

lumber for the layouts, and donations from Tom's Train Terminal toward the rent.

Committee Reports *-Museum-*

Ed Cronin noted the museum committee has filed an application for the Northwestern Pennsylvania Transportation Enhancements Program grant on March 5. The grant is managed by PENNDOT. The committee had to raise the amount requested due to an additional 25% for contingencies required by the state. The railroad and tooling museum is the only museum in a category of twelve, and is one of the higher grant requests. If the museum is still in the race for a grant, a presentation will be required in early April, with a visitation scheduled for late April. The grant would be awarded in June.

If the full amount requested is received, then the committee would have to come up with the remainder. An area bank has said they could loan most of the needed amount. Anything after that would have to come from cash on-hand.

Other grants the committee is looking into are the Norfolk Southern Foundation grant and the North American Railway Foundation grant. The NS

Foundation grant could provide the portion needed if the Transportation Enhancements grant were awarded, to build the museum. An equipment category could provide a grant to help with purchasing the EL SDP45 and with moving it and building a siding for it.

-Property/Equipment-

A work session will be scheduled soon to pressure wash the #518 and apply a coat of black paint. The AC&J Railroad will need to move the S2 near a water supply, if there is one. Mr. Bob Callahan, CEO of the AC&J is okay with the FCVRRHS working on the locomotive on AC&J property. Jack Sheets noted a pressure washer can be rented from Lloyd's for \$75 for 24 hours, plus replace the kerosene and gasoline. The unit is a 3500 psi steam washer. *(Editor's note: It was learned later that the pressure washer is not a steam washer, does run on kerosene, and the rent is now \$100 for a 24 hour period.)*

The paint preferred is satin black. It is estimated that at least 15 gallons will be needed. John Snyder said he would find out what is available.

The planned lighting project at the display site will

commence soon. The area will be staked so a crew can dig the required trench for the conduit. The board discussed renting a walk-behind slot trencher. The plan is to have two lights trained on the #518 and two on the caboose. Before any work starts it must be determined whether the conduit has to be PVC or metal to meet code. A permit will have to be in hand to start digging. It is hoped the work will be done by May 5, when the ELHS Spring Meeting comes to Meadville.

A coat of wax is planned to be put on the caboose before May 5, as well.

-Public

Relations/Education-

The Erie Lackawanna Historical Spring Meeting will be Saturday May 5, with the dinner and presentations being held at The Country Club on Route 86, north of Meadville. Six tables have been reserved for displays and sales. ELHS and FCVRRHS members who plan to attend must send in their registrations and fees by May 1. The presenters will be Carl Belke of the Western New York and Pennsylvania Railroad, and Stephen Timko, Jr., a former Erie Lackawanna, Conrail, and WNYP Railroad employee. Planned vendors include the ELHS, the FCVRRHS, Ken

Springirth, and possibly Thomas and Ken Kraemer. Mr. Springirth has two new books being published, including one on the Erie Lackawanna. The Kraemers are authors of four books between them.

Planned events during the Spring Meeting are a model railroad tour, and hopefully, an excursion train. The organization is waiting to hear from Mr. Belke concerning the train. Three passenger cars are available from the Oil Creek & Titusville. Liability insurance also must be obtained before the train can run. Ed Cronin is waiting to hear from Erie Insurance what the premium would be.

If the train does run, it may very well run on Saturday morning, so as not to conflict with the events at the Country Club. The model railroad tour would then be likely to occur on the morning of Sunday, May 6. If there is no train, then the model railroad tour would likely be on Saturday morning.

Editor Bill McComas says he has the first page of the newsletter, "*The Valley Express*", laid out. He suggests submissions for the next issue be in by May 5. It is planned to feature the ELHS Spring Meeting in this issue.

A letter of thanks was sent to Mr. Jim Nelson for his donation of a tool box that

included some older tools.

Carl Timko announced a train set has been acquired to raffle off in December to benefit the Toys for Tots campaign.

-Model Railroad-

Upcoming train shows are the NMRA - Division 5 show at Lakeland Community College in Kirtland, Ohio, on May 17 and 18. A train show is scheduled for June 16 and 17 at the Perry Street Station in Titusville.

A model railroad DCC (digital command control) clinic is scheduled for March 29 at 6 p.m., in the model railroad club room in the @ the Bank shopping center, 940 Park Avenue, Meadville. Members of the model railroad club will be admitted for free. Non-members will pay a \$5.00 fee. Jason Sider will conduct the clinic for HO scale, while Scott Wilson will conduct the N scale clinic.

A model railroad basics clinic will be held at the Lakeland Community College, in Kirtland, Ohio on November 2 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Admission is free.

There will be three railfanning days held at the Painesville, Ohio depot, located along the CSX mainline. The planned dates are May 19, July 28, and October 13.

Tom Collard reported on the progress of the model

railroad club layouts. The TT scale layout has all the benchwork done. Track laying and roadbed will start soon. The N scale supports will be installed soon. The modules on one side of the HO scale layout are now fastened.

The next model railroad work session is Wednesday, March 28 at 6 p.m.

Ed Cronin noted a friend of an acquaintance has a train set for sale for \$90. It is possibly a wooden Brio train set. If it is, this set may be acquired for the planned museum to entertain children.

Ed received a request from Joyce Spotarelli to have a model built of the former brick general store that recently burned down in Kerrtown. This building was located on the corner of Cussawago Road and Mercer Street, and has been razed.

-Membership-

The French Creek Valley Railroad Historical Society welcomes back Ron Stafford. Ron was a member a year ago.

Next Meeting

The next board and general membership meeting will be Thursday, April 19, 2012, at 6:30 p.m., in the conference room of the U.S. Bronze Foundry and Machine, Inc., located at 18649 Brake Shoe Road, Meadville, PA.

