



# The Second Section



Minutes from the March 18, 2010 meeting

President Dennis Mead called the board and general membership meeting to order at 6:00 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, Larry Johnson, Tom Collard, John Snyder, Jack Sheets, Denis Manross, Wayne Brown, and Al Reibel.

### *Treasurer's Report*

Treasurer Ed Cronin disclosed the current balances and expenses. Upcoming expenses are the website fee and liability and caboose insurance. Ed noted that the service charge for the insurance would be waived if the full amount were paid up front. The board agreed to pay the full amount up front.

### *Committee Reports - Museum*

Ed Cronin noted the museum site committee is looking at three possible sites. The 84 Lumber Co. property continues to be of interest. A Phase II environmental study is likely. An evaluation of how much of the site needs to be cleaned up in order to open as a museum, if acquired, is needed. Also an estimate of how much the cleanup is going to cost

is needed.

The second site is the Bessemer Building that is currently owned by the Economic Progress Alliance. The building originally was one of the Erie Railroad shop buildings. At least two options in acquiring use of the building are available. The building could be leased for three years, and/or leased with the option to buy. A 99 year lease on the property would protect the organization from the responsibility of cleanup. The building has approximately 7500 square feet available, and could use insulation. Heating cost could be controlled by having the museum open between the months of April and October. The building currently has one or two tenants, which could bring in added revenue.

The third site being investigated is the old Erie Railroad freight house, currently being used by the Little Champs Child Development. Channellock owns the building and decided to close the daycare down and sell the building, which sits on 1.9 acres of land. Channellock would like to settle on the property by June.

Several positive aspects for using the freight house as a museum were discussed. The second floor could be used for archives and storage. The first floor

could house the Stereoscopic Museum and railroad exhibits. A building could be erected on the property for the Foriska shop, or in the Keystone Tool building across the street, if it becomes available. A concrete platform could be build and boxcars added for display and storage purposes.

### *- Historical/ Archives-*

Information from Doug Sekerski of the Crawford Area Transportation Authority, regarding the train wreck in Meadville, was received. Mr. Sekerski stated the wreck occurred on Sunday, August 6, 1939. A visit to the Crawford County Historical Society confirmed this with a story in the August 7, 1939 issue of the Meadville Tribune-Republican. Two locomotives were involved, with one, the #3391 having part of its cab sheared off. The wreck was cleared enough within four hours for a passenger train to run through, only 20 minutes late. The wreck was featured in the Fall 2009 issue of "The Valley Express" newsletter. Many thanks to Doug for his help in resolving this mystery.

Some newspaper clippings, an EL timetable, and the last issue of the EL Digest, along with some historic photos of Meadville yard were donated by Mr. Stanley Niwa of Meadville.

A letter of thanks was sent after the meeting.

Anne Stewart of the CCHS inquired about having the Erie Railroad employee records archived and saved to compact discs. It is hoped to have students from Allegheny College compile the records. There may be a grant to cover ninety percent of the cost of the wages for this project. The FCVRRHS would have to come up with the other ten percent. Tom Collard made a motion to appropriate funding for this project. Ed Cronin seconded the motion; the motion carried with a unanimous vote by the attending members.

#### *-Property/Equipment-*

Bob Callahan of the Ashtabula, Carson & Jefferson Railroad wants to get together with the representatives of the FCVRRHS to set up a possible work schedule on the #518. Representatives may be Dennis Mead, Ed Cronin, and Terry Martin.

Several sources for ALCO parts were mentioned, among them Don Colangelo of the DL&W, Brian Clark of the Hobo Railroad, George Silcott & Sons of Worthington, Ohio, and Larry's Truck and Electric of McDonald, Ohio (offices in Warren, Ohio).

Carl Belke notified Dennis that he will have a crew to finish the trackwork at the display site, sometime between April and July.

Dennis sent a letter to Mr. Christopher Callahan of NS Corporation's Asset Deposition Department, regarding a single-target signal on the former Erie Railroad.

#### *-Special Events/Programs-*

The monthly bull sessions sponsored by Tom's Train Terminal are doing very well. No less than six have attended each of the first two sessions. Tom would like to change the schedule of the sessions. The attending members agreed with the second Friday of the month, effective immediately, with the next bull session, Friday, April 9, at 6:00 p.m. at 940 Park Avenue, Meadville.

Planning is underway to conduct a model railroad weathering clinic, with Al Notarione instructing. A date has not been set as yet.

Dennis Mead mentioned the possibility of a live steam seminar with member Steve Sweeney. Dennis noted the requirement of having insurance, because the boilers are under pressure.

Discussions continued about a possible train ride/bus trip. The trip would entail having a bus leaving Greenville with locals, traveling to Meadville, where they meet up with Meadville locals to board a WNYP excursion train to Corry. At Corry, we would board a bus to the Lake Shore Railway

Historical Society museum in North East. Train watching and a meal in the diner could be two of the activities on site. Then reboarding the bus to travel to the Erie Zoo. After time at the zoo, we would return home. If there is a large turnout, a possibility that people riding the train would return on the bus from Corry, and those riding a bus to Corry, would return on the train. Planning has not begun as yet.

If a trip were successful, a fall foliage train ride over the WNYP would be attempted.

The annual dinner at the Italian Civic Club in Meadville is scheduled for June 17, 2010 at 6:00 p.m.. The elections of officers and board members would follow the dinner. The menu for the dinner was voted on by attending members. Members have a choice of two meat entrees: chicken parmesan and stuffed pork chops. The vegetable would be green bean almondine, the potato selection would be smashed redskin potatoes, with pie for dessert. Cost for the dinner is \$14.95.

Train show promoter Edward "Ted" Fisher offered to help the FCVRRHS in starting a train show in the Meadville area. Discussions as to where one could be held ensued. Mentioned were the Eldred Building, after it is refurbished by the

Economic Progress Alliance, the Holiday Inn Express, and the Days Inn. Mr. Fisher recommended not to have a train show in a mall.

*-Public Relations/Education-*

The next edition of “*The Valley Express*” is progressing towards completion. Dennis Mead advised he will submit his president's letter at the last moment. Bill McComas asked Carl Timko to submit a membership summary.

Member Pete Gifford may be able to get one or more students from Allegheny College to update the website for a nominal fee. Ed Cronin made a motion to proceed with an offer. Carl Timko seconded the motion. The motion carried by vote of the attending members.

Techfest, a hands-on technology event, is scheduled for Wednesday at Precision Manufacturing Institute, on Bessemer St., Meadville, PA. It is scheduled for most of the day. Ed Cronin has a portable switching layout for the show, but needs operators or attendees for the day. Anyone interested, contact Ed, Dennis Mead, or Carl Timko.

*-Membership-*

Our latest new member is Jacob Trenn of North Kingsville, Ohio. Jacob is a junior member whose interest is in the Bessemer

and Lake Erie Railroad. Jacob's father, David Trenn, is a respected railfan photographer, whose work is seen on the Bessemer and Lake Erie Railroad Message Board on the internet. Jacob is approaching his dad's expertise in photography.

President Dennis Mead accepted the resignation of Hunt Christie from the board of directors. Dennis sent a letter thanking him for his service and expertise while on the board.

The following officers and board members have terms that are expiring in June. Treasurer - Ed Cronin, Vice President - Bernie Hanmore, Board of Directors - Jack Sheets and Bill McComas. All of the incumbents indicated they would like to continue their positions on the board.

*-Next Meeting-*

The next board and general membership meeting will be held April 15, 2010, at 6:00 p.m., in the conference room of the U.S. Bronze Foundry & Machine, Inc., located at 18649 Brake Shoe Road, Meadville, PA.



