



# The Second Section



## Minutes from the March 19, 2009 meeting

President Dennis Mead called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m., in the conference room of the U.S. Bronze Foundry & Machine, Inc., located at 18649 Brake Shoe Road, Meadville, Pa.

Attending were Dennis Mead, Carl Timko, Bill McComas, Larry Johnson, Jack Sheets, Bernie Hanmore, Tom Collard, Bob Bingham, Al Reibel, Gene and Joe Vilkie, Dan Leech, Jonathan and Nate Clark, Terry Kerr, Henry Grund, and Chris Southwell. Mr. Leech is a new member. Mr. Kerr, Mr. Grund, Mr. Southwell, and Joe Vilkie are guests who may become members. In all, seventeen attended the meeting.

### *Treasurer's Report*

Treasurer Ed Cronin submitted his report via email. He included the account balance and the total profit from the DCC clinic held in February 2009 at the Christ Episcopal Church of Meadville. Also added to the report was a donation by Bill and Yetivemarie McComas.

An invitation was received from the National City Bank to submit a grant request from the Harold A. Heist Trust. The grant request must pertain to the maintenance and upkeep of a Crawford County historical

structure (i.e. EL caboose #C356). The grant request must be mailed by June 30, 2009.

### *Old Business - Historical / Archives*

Jack Sheets was thanked for having the donated Erie Railroad Car Inspection Certificate mounted on foamboard for preservation.

### *Old Business - Property/Equipment*

A donation to the Lake Shore Railway Historical Society will be made upon acquiring the signal mast that the LSRHS has donated to the FCVRRHS. A date needs to be set to drive up to North East, load the mast, and deliver it to Meadville. A discussion followed on where to place the signal and mast on the display site.

It might be possible to acquire a precast concrete signal base foundation from the Canadian National (formerly Bessemer and Lake Erie Railroad) in Greenville. A possible contact for acquiring one could be the superintendent of the railroad.

The CEO of the Ashtabula, Carson, & Jefferson Railroad, Bob Callahan, has informed FCVRRHS president Dennis Mead that he is aware of the time constraints the FCVRRHS is

under to fund the #518 project. The two discussed renting a crane together to begin removing the prime mover, generator and components, as well as switching the trucks on the #518. The crane would also be used to load the locomotive on a railcar or a truck. There is no commitment to an exact date for preparation and loading the loco. Also reviewed was the fact that Trailer Train has cars available to haul loads such as locomotives.

The schedule for opening the caboose to the public was reviewed. The plan being to open on Sunday afternoons, plus some holidays, and special appointments.

The date was set to start the trackwork at the display site. It was agreed to start laying ties, fishplates, and rail on Saturday April 18, 2009 at 9:00 a.m., with a raindate of Saturday April 25, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. (*Editor's note: the date has been rescheduled to Saturday, April 25 at 9:00 a.m., with a raindate of Saturday May 2, at 9:00 a.m.*) The possibility of borrowing a boom truck from the Western New York & Pennsylvania Railroad was explored. Permission will be needed to be obtained from Carl Belke, the WNYP president and Chief Operating Officer.

### *Old Business – Museum*

A report from Tom Collard revealed the 84 Lumber Co. property in Meadville, has been sold. The property was viewed as an alternate site for the museum, if it were available for the right price.

### *Old Business – Special Events/Programs*

The contacts Jack Sheets made for possible events for the 2010 Railroad Days were reviewed. They were Jim Dickerson and his company in Medina, NY that rents out a replica of “Thomas the Train”. Also, Jones Party Magic of Franklin, Pa. has a miniature train using a Case tractor to pull a rubber-wheeled train.

### *Old Business – Public Relations/Education*

Author Ken Springirth of Erie has his new book on the Bessemer & Lake Erie Railroad on the market. Mr. Springirth has offered to forward \$5.00 to the FCVRRHS for every book sold, if he could appear at the caboose to sign and sell his books. A radio spot at the caboose on the same day was discussed. A date needs to be set for that event.

Asked about the status with IMPR (Steve Bell) regarding making t-shirts for the organization, Carl Timko explained he emailed Mr. Bell twice without a reply and will try contacting him

again. Jack Sheets has a contact that can produce 100 t-shirts at \$9.00 each.

There was a question of ownership of the screens, since the organization paid for the set-up charge. The FCVRRHS has the JPEG artwork, emailed by Larry Smith.

An idea by Jim Cray to have a small outbuilding for merchandise sales at the display site was discussed. Jack Sheets has obtained literature on the subject for reference.

Gene Vilkie has a couple of shelf sets that may be given to the organization for displaying merchandise in the caboose.

Research needs to be done to determine if the organization needs to have a sales license to sell merchandise at the caboose and elsewhere.

### *Old Business – Other*

The Meadville Tribune reported that the Crawford County Historical Society has officially acquired the former trolley station in Cambridge Springs. Ideas for the trolley station include a joint CCHS/FCVRRHS Christmas at the Station project, a site for displaying the model railroad layout, running a “Santa Express” excursion train from Meadville to Cambridge Springs, with Santa greeting the passengers at the station.

### *Old Business – Membership*

The Lake Shore Railway Historical Society's dinner is scheduled for Saturday April 18, 2009 at 5:30 p.m. The guest speaker is Preston Cook, author of several books pertaining to EMD locomotives.

The FCVRRHS annual dinner is to be discussed. Choices of available restaurants include the Elks Lodge, the Italian Civic Club, Stable Pit & Pub, and Hoss's Steak and Seafood House.

### *New Business – Property/Equipment*

There was a question of when to set the flagpole up at the display site. It was agreed that now is not the right time, while other components of the display site need to be taken care of first, so as not to be in the way.

It was reported that Jim Cray has a night-time photo of the Meadville depot that he would like to give to the organization.

Guest Henry Grund explained to the members the differences of signal types. He also explained how to disassemble a signal properly. Henry informed the attending members where an Erie Railroad signal may be available, if permission is obtained.

There was a short discussion regarding moving

the #518 on a Trailer Train flat car or by truck. Nothing has been determined yet.

An old PRR class X29 boxcar is said to be in poor condition at Emporium. Nate Clark reminded the attending members that another X29 is still in service in Ferrona.

### *New Business – Public Relations/Education*

Bill McComas, editor of the newsletter, “*The Valley Express*”, needs some more input from Dan Higham for the newsletter.

Webmaster Jonathan Clark will be on duty with the Pennsylvania National Guard from June 2009 to Christmas of 2009. A temporary replacement will be needed to keep the website up to date.

A member of Tom Collard's church has requested information regarding Meadville's first depot that spanned the six foot gauge line. Anyone with information are to contact Tom Collard.

Al Reibel proposed assembling photos from the archives to be printed on a calendar to sell to the public, beginning with the year 2010. The cost to produce a calendar is expected to be \$5 or \$6 and should sell for \$10 to \$13. A committee needs to be started in time to have the calendar ready for Christmas.

### *New Business – Special Events/Programs*

Jack Sheets has volunteered to assume the duties as Special Events/Programs committee chairperson.

The Titusville Historical Society has invited the FCVRRHS to their One-Day Museum at Perry St. Station, Saturday June 20, 2009. Set-up time is 9:00 a.m. The event opens to the public at 10:00 a.m., tear-down is at 2:00 p.m. One eight foot table with two chairs are available. The theme, in conjunction with the 150th anniversary of the discovery of oil in Titusville, is “Trail of Oil”. The Oil Creek & Titusville Railroad excursion train departs at 1:00 p.m.

### *New Business – Museum*

The Lake Shore Railway Historical Society had a representative from Transsystems of Warren, PA discuss the National Register and the requirements to list historical structures. It was noted that if a structure is over fifty years old, it can be eligible for grants. As a sidenote, the locomotive #518, when in place, may not be eligible because it is not completely intact. More research will need to be done regarding this subject.

### *New Business –*

### *Historical/Archives*

Henry Grund proposed to contact the county commissioners about placing an historic marker commemorating the groundbreaking of the Erie Railroad in Crawford County. If the actual site was within the city of Meadville, contact probably will be with city council.

Nate Clark noted that shelving is now in place for the ELHS archives at the Cleveland State University. The archives are currently stored at an undisclosed location in Painesville, Ohio. They will be moved to CSU in two months or so.

### *New Business – Membership*

The attending members selected a restaurant for the annual dinner, by vote. The majority selected the Elks Lodge of Meadville. The lodge is located at 15438 State Highway 86, Meadville. The dinner will be held at Thursday, June 18, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. The elections and business meeting will follow at 8:00 p.m.

Dennis Mead has agreed to run for a second term as president. Carl Timko will run for his second term as secretary. Also, Larry Johnson will run for his second term as a board member. Jim Cray and Hunt Christie are board members

whose terms are expiring. Available for board of directors posts are Al Reibel and Tom Collard. *(Editor's note: Hunt Christie will run for his second term, while Al Reibel will step aside).*

The next board and general membership meeting will be Thursday, April 16, 2009, 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.

