

The Second Section

Minutes from the May 17, 2012 meeting

President Dennis Mead called the board and general membership meeting to order at 6:31 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, Bernie Hanmore, Ed Cronin, Carl Timko, Larry Johnson, Jack Sheets, John Snyder, Tom Collard, Bill McComas, Denis Manross, Tom Stewart, Ron Stafford, and guest Carl Ferguson.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Ed Cronin disclosed the current balances, including income from sales, membership dues, donations, and from the Erie Lackawanna Historical Society Western Spring Meeting and dinner. Expenses were for the ELHS dinner and ordering new checks. The 518 Fund was also reported.

Model Railroad Club Treasurer's Report

Tom Collard released the balances for the model railroad club. Income was from sales, expenses included rent and supplies. Donations to the club included cash, wood and scenery materials, and some model railroad equipment to sell.

Committee Reports

-Museum-

The museum didn't qualify for the Transportation Enhancements Program grant. The museum committee will try again at the next opportunity. Other grants are still being investigated, including one from the Norfolk Southern Foundation and one from the North American Railway Foundation.

The annual meeting for the museum board will be Monday, June 11, 2012, at 7:00 p.m., in the Johnson-Shaw Stereoscopic Museum, located at 423 Chestnut St., Meadville, PA. Awards to be given are volunteer of the year and organization of the year.

The museum board would like to meet with representatives of each partner of the museum to determine the needs to form a collections agreement, for when the museum opens for business.

The museum membership committee is interested in placing rack cards for the museum at the model railroad display in late November through Christmas.

-Property/Equipment-

Discussions continue on how to get the 518 hauled to Meadville and placed on display. The quote from Lloyd's was deemed the best offer so far, but by using all available revenue, the organization would still come up short monetarily. There are a couple of outfits

that may be contacted for hauling and crane services. The FCVRRHS board will ask businesses to donate and may ask the membership to donate a small amount if they could.

The caboose will be open on Sunday May 27, 2012 from 1 pm. to 4 p.m. for Memorial Day. No set schedule is set for the rest of the year. Any members interested in volunteering, please contact Carl Timko. Please give a date of preference, so we can plan for the caboose to be open. The Meadville Tribune will be contacted to place an ad in the "Morning Planner" column of the Tribune.

The current information about the tool car disclosed that it has some holes in the roof. The car is owned by the Western New York & Pennsylvania Railroad. WNYP CEO Carl Belke hasn't heard back from the other interested party. If the FCVRRHS were to acquire the car, it may be placed in the triangle shaped portion of Pomona Park, near the caboose, or at the museum site.

Tom Collard noted that the Southern Railroad of New Jersey is interested in selling its two ex- Bessemer & Lake Erie F7's.

Of the 34 Erie Lackawanna SDP45's, only 9 remain in existence. No report was given as to the situation regarding the #3639.

The board needs to get the signal mast that was donated by the Lake Shore Railway Historical Society hauled to the display site in Meadville as soon as possible. A long trailer would be needed to haul the mast down from North East.

The Marion Union Station Association donated a framed Erie Railroad commemorative 100th year anniversary postcard to the FCVRRHS, while at the ELHS meeting and dinner on May 5. A thank you letter was sent to them for making the gracious donation.

-Public

Relations/Education-

There has been no correspondence from the ELHS since the Western Spring Meeting at the Country Club on May 5. Dennis Mead sent a note to Carl Belke, thanking him for his appearance and presentation on the WNYP Railroad and for answering all the questions the audience had asked him. Carl Timko thanked everyone who helped with putting the ELHS event together. The model railroad layout owners were thanked for their generosity in opening up their layouts to the public. The gentlemen were Dennis Mead, Ed Cronin, Scott Woods, Edd Blenner, Al Parker, and Carl Ferguson. The board agreed to send a letter of thanks plus a gas

card to Mr. Woods, Mr. Blenner, Mr. Parker, and Mr. Ferguson. Mr. Ferguson donated it back to the organization, which in turn granted him a one year's membership.

The "*Valley Express*" newsletter is in the process of editing for publication. Editor Bill McComas wanted to include photos from the ELHS meeting in the upcoming issue.

A discussion between Dennis Mead and Carl Belke revealed Mr. Belke's interest in operating a "Santa Claus" train from Meadville to Corry during the Christmas holiday season. Mr. Belke would like to have it sponsored by area businesses and have the FCVRRHS partner with him in this event.

-Historical/Archives-

The 150th anniversary of the arrival of the Atlantic & Great Western Railroad into Meadville is coming up later this year. The board would like to have an article published by the Meadville Tribune to help commemorate the event. Tom Collard said he would talk to Ken Springirth about getting him involved with this project.

The Delaware Lackawanna & Western Railroad archives, formerly at Syracuse University, were donated to Steamtown, in Scranton, PA. There was hope that the Erie Railroad archives and the DL&W archives

would be kept at one place.

-Membership-

Membership dues come due June 30, 2012. They still are \$20 per individual eighteen years of age or older. Junior dues are still \$1. Family dues are \$35.

The annual business meeting and dinner of the French Creek Valley Railroad Historical Society will be at the Country Club, located at 15955 Route 86, Meadville, PA, on Thursday June 28, 2012. Social time is at 5:00 p.m., dinner is served at 6:00 p.m. Cost of the dinner is \$24 per person. The election of officers and board of directors will also take place. The following nominations have been made: President - Bernie Hanmore; Vice President - Dennis Mead; Treasurer - no nominations; Assistant Treasurer - Ed Cronin; Board of Directors terms expiring, but have accepted nominations to continue their service on the board are Jack Sheets, and Bill McComas.

The attending membership thanked Dennis Mead for his invaluable service as president of the FCVRRHS. Dennis has been a well organized and inspirational leader of the organization. Thank you and well done, Denny!

- Model Railroad -

John Snyder mentioned he attended a scenery clinic at the Mercer Junction Train Shoppe in Mercer, PA. He

purchased a copy of “*O Gauge Magazine*”, which had an article on building a model of the Erie Lackawanna transfer cabooses that were numbered from T-10 to T-34. The cabooses were built by the Meadville Program Car Shops and were assigned to different yards on the EL system.

Next Meeting

The next board and general membership meeting is at the Country Club, 15955 Route 86, on Thursday June 28, 2012, after the dinner which starts at 6:00p.m.

