

The Second Section

Minutes of the May 19, 2011 meeting

President Dennis Mead called the board and general membership meeting to order at 6:36 p.m., in the conference room of the U.S. Bronze Foundry & Machine, Inc., located at 18649 Brake Shoe Road, Meadville, PA.

In attendance were Dennis Mead, Bernie Hanmore, Ed Cronin, Carl Timko, Bill McComas, Jack Sheets, Tom Collard, John Snyder, Denis Manross, and Stan Niwa.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Ed Cronin released the month's current balances, expenses and income. Expenses included the last payment for the year on the insurance policy, and rent for the model railroad club. Income was a cash donation.

Committee Reports *-Historical/Archives-*

Al Reibel had scanned photos from the Stuart Ladner collection and placed them on compact disc for the calendar committee to view. Samples of the photos were shown by Dennis Mead. The board is considering selling calendars on the wholesale and retail markets. A motion made by John Snyder for Dennis Mead to head the project and do what is necessary to complete the project. The motion was approved by consensus.

John Snyder said he has names for the photo of railroaders in the photo he recently donated to the organization.

A thank you letter was sent to Ms. Connie Walrath for the Erie RR police uniform and rule books she donated.

Denis Manross brought in and donated four railroad handbooks, a watch comparison card, and three Lehigh Valley trip passes. Many thanks, Denis.

-Museum-

The board is still trying to acquire a certain piece of property for the museum. The museum board is planning to take a private tour of the Drake Well Museum in Titusville, to be conducted by the director, Barbara Zolli. The tour would help the board envision the railroad and tooling museum's interior, as the Drake Well Museum is spread out over 24,000 square feet, the same as the planned museum in Meadville.

Techfest went smoothly, due to the efforts of Ed Cronin, John Snyder, Dennis Mead, and Larry Johnson. Techfest was a one day exposition of hand-on activities relating to the industries of the area.

-Property/Equipment-

A work session was scheduled for Friday, May 22 at 8:30a.m. to work on

the #518 in Jefferson, Ohio.

The work is progressing nicely, with special thanks to Stan Niwa and Terri Martin. Several components have been removed. The remaining work to be done includes cutting the brackets that hold the trucks to the frame, separating the air compressor, and the trucks need to be swapped at the earliest convenience of the Ashtabula Carson & Jefferson Railroad's employees.

The attending members discussed about scraping and painting the frame ourselves to save money. John Snyder said he would check about obtaining a cleaner and appropriate paint. Jack Sheets mentioned the old quote from Lloyd's Crane to lift the engine frame to send it to Butler for restoration. The 2010 quote is remarkably different from the quote of a fellow from Jefferson, Ohio. The difference between the two quotes may make it affordable to send the locomotive frame to Butler, instead of sanding and painting it ourselves.

The board established a subcommittee to advertise a fundraiser and investigate ways to raise the funds to finish the project. Tom Collard volunteered to be on the subcommittee and would try to enlist Scott Wilson's help. The subcommittee would accept

local donations and advertise in the Meadville Tribune, and railroad magazines. One suggestion was to advertise using before and after photos to "Help us get it home" and/or "Help the 518 look like this"

Dennis Mead will talk to Rog's, a heavy equipment hauler about hauling the chassis to Butler.

The ballast still needs to be spread on the track at the display site in Meadville before the cabooses can be moved back into position and opened for the summer tourist season. A front end loader is needed to spread the 9 3/4 tons of stone over where the cabooses had been sitting.

The schedule for 2011 is planned for five weekends. The first weekend would be Memorial Day weekend, pending completion of the ballast, moving the cabooses back and resetting the stairs back in place. The open dates on the weekend would depend on available volunteers. The second weekend would be during the Thurston Classic, which is June 17 to June 19. Again, the dates the cabooses would be open for tours is dependent on available volunteers. Anyone that is available is encouraged to help conduct the tour. The third day is during the Independence Day weekend, on Sunday, July 3. The fourth weekend is August 6 and August 7, during which a private

passenger car excursion is scheduled to arrive and depart Meadville; more on this subject is listed under the Public Relations/Education header. The last weekend would be Labor Day weekend, consisting of September 3 through 5, depending on the availability of volunteers.

Carl Timko is trying to set up appearances by Ken Springirth and Thomas Kraemer, and maybe other authors to sell and sign their books. (Ed. note: Thomas Kraemer declined until next year)

-Public Relations/Education-

A special private passenger car excursion is scheduled to arrive in Meadville on August 6, and depart the next day. High Iron Travel Excursions is the promoter. Pricing has not been set yet for tickets.

-Special Events/Programs-

The Lake Shore Railway Historical Society has a free program at the North East depot on Saturday May 21 at 8:00 p.m.

-Model Railroad-

John Snyder and Ed Cronin visited the Bethesda Children's Home outside Meadville, to examine the model railroad equipment that had been donated to the home. Ed and John offered to help build a layout or offer their expertise.

Tom Collard announced the N scale benchwork has been completed. Scenery and trackwork will be the next project on the layout. He also noted that used TT flextrack is on hand to be used on a TT scale layout.

The model railroad club may occupy additional space in the @ the Bank shopping complex. An artist who had occupied space has left the premises. The extra space may be had for a nominal rental fee.

Scott Wilson and Tom Collard traveled to the Mercer Junction Hobby Shoppe in Mercer recently. They participated in a scenery clinic the owner, Dave Minarik conducted.

The dues for membership in the model railroad club are \$30 per year. Additional information may be obtained from Tom Collard by visiting his business, Tom's Train Terminal in the @ the Bank facility.

Tom Collard asked the board if funds from the Bingham donation could be used for purchasing tools for the model railroad club.

-Membership-

It is with great sadness to announce the passing of Henry Grund. Mr. Grund was never a member of the FCVRRHS, but did attend several meetings. He is renowned for having a railroad signal lit on his property and regularly changing the aspect.

The annual membership

banquet and business meeting is Thursday, June 9, at the Meadville Country Club on State Route 86. Social will be at 6:00 p.m., dinner is at 6:30 p.m., and the business meeting should be started by 8:00 p.m.

The menu for the buffet style dinner consists of a salad, vegetable, starch (i.e. potato), entrees of chicken in wine sauce or sliced beef in mushroom gravy, dessert, and coffee or tea. Cost of the dinner is \$24.00 per person.

After the dinner, the election of officers will convene. Two officers and three board of directors are up for reelection. They are President Dennis Mead, Secretary Carl Timko, and directors Tom Collard, Larry Johnson, and John Snyder. The business meeting will commence after the election.

-Next Meeting-

The next meeting is at the Meadville Country Club, 15955 Route 86, Meadville, PA, as stated above, on Thursday June 9, 2011.

