



# The Second Section



## Minutes of the May 21, 2009 meeting

President Dennis Mead called the board and general membership meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., in the conference room of the U.S. Bronze Foundry & Machine, Inc., located at 18649 Brake Shoe Road, Meadville, PA.

Attending members were Dennis Mead, Ed Cronin, Carl Timko, Bill McComas, Larry Johnson, Jack Sheets, Hunt Christie, Dwayne Jindra, Jim Cray, Tom Collard, Loyd Mitchell, Ed Ferguson, and Nate Clark.

### *Treasurer's Report*

Treasurer Ed Cronin submitted his report including the cash-on-hand balance and the expenditure of the newsletters from Fine Print. He also informed the attending members that PNC Bank has sent notice that the application for the Harold Heist Foundation grant is due on June 30, 2009. Input is needed for use of the grant towards upkeep and preservation of the display site.

### *Old Business - Historical Archives*

Jack Sheets checked on the condition of the Erie Railroad Archives at the ARC building. They seem to be safe and dry, but some are deteriorating due to age and storage in their containers.

Nate Clark reported on the

status of the Erie Lackawanna Historical Society archives. They are still in temporary storage in northeastern Ohio, with no public access. That should change soon, as an agreement has been worked out to send the archives to Cleveland State University for permanent storage.

Shelves are now ready to accept the archives. Nate will e-mail members when help is needed to move the containers.

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

The caboose tour schedule for the first weekend is as follows. Sunday May 24, the caboose will be manned by Carl Timko. Monday, May 25, also Memorial Day, the caboose is manned by Bill McComas and Tom Barratt. We need more volunteers for each Sunday through Labor Day.

The Titusville One-Day Museum event is nearing, to occur on June 20. Al Reibel will represent the FCVRRHS. Board member Larry Johnson will be there also, but for the Johnson-Shaw Stereoscopic Museum.

Steve Bell of IMPR contacted secretary Carl Timko regarding T-shirts for the organization. Mr. Bell said he would have to have

his graphics department redraw the image for the printers. The cost for a 48 piece order in white or natural was 80 cents less per shirt than all other colors. It was suggested to contact member Larry Smith for any other artwork that may be available.

### *Old Business - Property/Equipment*

Jack Sheets contacted Ken Hough of Industrial Truck and Crane and invited him to come up and look over the display site. It is possible two machines may have to be moved in order to bring the #518 (Alco S2) into the site. ITC was the company that hoisted the caboose onto the display track.

Dennis Mead met with Ashtabula Carson & Jefferson Railroad executive Bob Callahan. He indicated the crane they have been expecting is getting recabled. The AC&J is starting to strip small parts off of the #518. They will swap out the trucks. The trucks can be shipped out first and put into position on the display track.

The hood of the #518 is to be sent to a sandblaster and have it repainted. There is body work that needs to be done as well. After repainting it was decided that vinyl graphics would be a better choice than having

them painted on.

More work is to be done on the track extension. The new rail needs finished with the spiking. The track also needs to be leveled, the remaining ties cut to proper length and more stone for ballast. Hunt Christie estimates another tri-axle truckload of stone would be required. The track also needs another set of bars. The original track that is under the caboose needs lifted and leveled to match the new panel track. To do that, the caboose will have to be rolled onto the extension, which also requires the one entry platform being moved or removed.

At present time, the interior of the caboose is being repainted.

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

The annual dinner and business meeting will have Western New York & Pennsylvania Railroad executive Carl Belke as the scheduled speaker. The dinner will be held Thursday, June 18, 2009, at the Elk's Lodge, 15438 State Highway 86, Meadville, PA. The dinner will start at 6 p.m. with the business meeting, including elections of officers and board of directors at 8 p.m. Dinner selections are from the Elk's regular menu. Members were sent a copy to look over. Casual attire is

suggested. Remember, the cost of your dinner is your responsibility. If you are unable to join us for dinner, please try to make it for the business meeting.

### *Old Business - Budget/Finance*

Treasurer Ed Cronin will be sending out notices to members within the next week regarding renewing the dues. The dues are to be in by June 30. If dues paid by June 18, adult members are eligible for a \$2.00 discount. Please be advised, dues are now \$20.00 for individuals and \$35.00 for families. The rate for juniors (up to age 18), is still \$1.00.

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

Mr. Frank Duda and his crew, Larry and Bob, of the Meadville Area Sewer Authority, were sent a letter of appreciation for their assistance with the removal of a portion of a concrete pad supporting one of the machines on display. They also spread the ballast on the track extension. Their help saved us a lot of time and hand-labor.

### *New Business - Museum*

Ed Cronin talked to officials in Harrisburg several times regarding the scope of the existing grant for the museum. Ed asked all

contractors to modify and resubmit their contracts at a reduced cost. All of the contractors agreed to do so, and resubmitted their contracts. The contracts are now in Harrisburg awaiting approval. If and when they are approved and a letter is received notifying the contracts are all approved, by mid- 2010, all the planning should be completed. This includes a business plan, a feasibility study, a site engineering study, and conceptual drawings. The next step would be capital campaign fundraising. Two years afterward, dirt should be turned for building the museum.

### *New Business - Model Railroading*

A discussion on where the layout may be displayed this coming holiday season was held. Several possibilities were mentioned, including the Eldred (corrected spelling from last month's meeting) Building. If there is a deal from the store, member Tom Collard said he could arrange something with the Economic Progress Alliance. The Cambridge Springs Trolley Station was also mentioned. The station was recently acquired by the Crawford County Historical Society. It was noted that a meeting with the president of the CCHS, Dan Higham, would be needed to request

space for the layout, along with the possibility of a Santa Claus event.

If the layout cannot be displayed in the trolley station, there is some possibilities that the layout will be once again be in one of the storefronts in the Downtown Mall. At least one store, John's Hallmark Cards, is going out of business, which has two storefronts.

Other stores in Meadville are several owned by Mr. Ben Miceli. Jim Cray volunteered to talk to Mr. Miceli in regards to an empty store.

Several points were considered in acquiring space for the layout included adequate parking and the ability for members to lock and unlock the door at will.

Tom Collard brought in his scratchbuilt model of a TT scale multi-storefront corner building. It is a very nice model.

### *New Business - Property/Equipment*

Jack Sheets contacted Powell's about having a job johnny set at the display site for convenience. Powell's will not donate a unit or services. They will charge \$25.00 per month, or \$125.00 for the season. Jack said he will check with Klink's Environmental Services of Linesville about their rates for a job johnny.

The FCVRRHS received several donations recently. A box of railroad memorabilia was received from former Erie-Lackawanna employee Joe McBride of Texas.

Member Dwayne Jindra donated several railroad related VHS tapes for members to view.

Jim Cray donated a large black and white print of the Meadville depot at night.

The next work session on the track extension project is scheduled for Saturday, May 23, 2009 at 8 a.m. It is realized by the time members receive this edition, the day of the work session will be past. It is advised to watch your email, if you have it, for bulletins for the next work session.

### *New Business - Membership*

The secretary was instructed to send a letter of congratulations and appreciation to Jonathan Clark for his graduation and acceptance to Edinboro University, as well as for shipping out to Fort Sill for basic training. Jon will enroll in the ROTC program at Edinboro and he will be part of the Pennsylvania National Guard artillery unit in Hermitage, PA.

Board member Jim Cray has decided to run for reelection. There will be three names on the ballot for one board of directors post. They are Jim

Cray, Al Reibel, who was a former FCVRRHS vice president, and Tom Collard, who is also running for Meadville City Council.

As mentioned under the Old Business - Special Events/Programs header, the next board and general membership meeting will be Thursday, June 18, 2009, at the Elk's Lodge, located at 15438 State Highway 86, Meadville, PA, at 8 p.m., or soon after the dinner.

