



The Second Section



Minutes from the May 21, 2016 Meeting

President Bernie Hanmore called the membership meeting to order at 6:30 p.m., at the display site in Pomona Park, Meadville, Pa.

Attending the meeting were Bernie Hanmore, Dennis Mead, Ed Cronin, Carl and Vanessa Timko, Bill McComas, Jack Sheets, John Snyder, Stan Niwa, and John Nagurney.

Treasurer's Report

The financial report, read by Treasurer Ed Cronin, consisted of the current balances, income, and expenses. A new fund was created for the snowplow project, and the income was from donations for the snowplow project. Expenses were for ordering new checks.

Ed notified the attending members that he will not be attending the next meeting, leaving Assistant Treasurer Vanessa Timko with the task of giving the treasurer's report and collecting dues that day.

Committee Reports Property / Equipment

Today's work session at the display site was productive. A crew removed and replaced a footboard and backing board on the boxcar as well as a door sill timber. Some nuts and bolts, holding brackets on the boxcar, were also removed in preparation to remove the wood

sheathing. It was noted that some of the 5/8" bolts were rusted down to "nothing". Stan Niwa also welded a cab door threshold onto the #518. The crew of Jack Sheets, Bill McComas, Ed Cronin, Stan Niwa, John Snyder, Terry Martin, Hunt Christie, and Carl Timko were thanked for their efforts.

A schedule for future work sessions has been established. At least one work session per week will be set for every Thursday, starting at 9:30 a.m. and lasting to noon or later, weather permitting. Should the weather not cooperate, the work session will be moved to Wednesday or Friday, also weather permitting. Mondays and Tuesdays may be used to get the work done if no other day will be available because of the weather.

Members are advised NOT to use the grab irons or ladders that are mounted on the boxcar. The bolts are rusted through, making climbing unsafe. They will be coming off when the car is painted. Paint scrapers are stored inside the boxcar, but members are urged to bring additional scrapers. Plastic drop cloths are also in the boxcar to catch the paint chips. Members are advised to wear safety glasses and dust masks when scraping paint. John Nagurney

mentioned he has two sections of scaffolding crews could use to work on the boxcar safely.

Dennis Mead suggested scraping, priming, and painting the ends of the boxcar before doing the sides. A conversation with representatives of Sherwin-Williams netted a suggestion to paint the "good" side of the boxcar first.

John Snyder reported on the quotes given for two primers and three paints. The price quoted was for a per-gallon basis, and not a total price. An estimate of how much primer and paint is needed to do the whole car still has to be made.

John said Ed Cronin needs to set up an account with Sherwin-Williams to take advantage of the organization's tax exempt status. The wait is still on for the funds promised by the Lake Shore Railway Historical Society, as part of the deal to lease the boxcar.

It was suggested that the painted boards could be laid across the cross members that are inside the boxcar so they may dry out of the weather.

Jack Sheets is to get a quote for coating the roof of the boxcar. He asked if the board should get permission from the LSRHS to take care of the roof. He also noted the need to replace the catwalk once the roof is done.



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Jack said he still has enough funds from renting the steam jenny to rent it again and steam clean the trucks on the displayed equipment.

The #518 is still waiting to be lettered and painted in areas of the nose and catwalks.

An inspection crew traveled to Wellsboro Junction to look over the snowplow. The crew, consisting of Jack Sheets, Dennis Mead, Stan Niwa, and Bill McComas, inspected it and purchased hardware and lumber to board up the windows.

Dennis noted that the snowplow has working door locks and that it has a specially designed short wheel base truck on the front. But it would still need a long ramp to roll onto a truck or flatcar to accommodate the three inch clearance between the rail and the bottom of the plow blade.

Dennis said he has taken photos of the inside of the snowplow.

A decision was made to not open the interior of the snowplow to the public due to the narrow aisle that would not accommodate a handicapped visitor's wheel chair.

Due to the fact that Silk Road Trucking is not able to haul the snowplow yet, the current option of having a crane lift the snowplow onto a flatcar and ship it down the WNYP to a destination where the snowplow could be off-loaded is still the

option. However, in a conversation with the AC&J Railroad's Bob Callahan, Jim Lassic is moving two passenger cars over the highway using specialized equipment to tow them behind a truck. This may be another option.

Ed Cronin asked for suggestions on how to move some rail to the planned display site on the "Smock property" to build a display track for the tool car and snowplow. The solution may be asking the WNYP Railroad to use their boom truck to do the job. John Nagurney said he may have the deed for the property in-hand by the next meeting.

Photos were taken of the #3378 bell. Copies of the photos will be sent to Ed Cronin to be used for the insurance on the bell. Board members are still waiting for word from the city of Meadville to determine who actually owns the bell.

Jack Sheets announced a donation of an Erie Railroad shop text book with a letter of completion, by Pat Winters. The book is in great condition for being published in 1915.

Public Relations / Education

Carl Timko announced that he has sent in most of the updates needed for the website to the webmaster, Dianne Jones. There will still be additions and changes in the near future.

Carl is listening to a digital audio book titled "*Railroads and the American People*" by H. Roger Grant. The author mentions Meadville's McHenry House and has a whole chapter on rail enthusiasts. The printed book is available through Amazon.com.

Special Events / Programs

Events in the tri-state area include the Key, Lock, and Lantern Convention at Utica, N.Y. on June 3rd through June 5th; a model train clinic at the Painesville, Ohio Railroad Museum on June 4; and the Riverside Railroad Club open house at the Warren, Ohio S.C.O.P.E. Center at 220 West Market Street on June 24th and 25th, with hours being 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. and noon to 4 p.m. on their respective days.

Ed Cronin said Nick Ozorak is planning to have an excursion train run over the WNYP Railroad on the third weekend of September. So far only one passenger car is available, according to Ed.

Membership

Membership dues will be expiring on June 30. Members are asked to send in their renewals by then, or if attending the next meeting, they can bring their payment to give to the Assistant Treasurer, Vanessa Timko. The next meeting is the



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annual picnic and business meeting.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 16, 2016 at the residence of Terry and Maryann Martin, located at 9899 Franklin Pike, Meadville, PA. The Martins are providing the hotdogs and hamburgers. Members are asked to bring a tureen to share with everyone at the picnic. This is open to members and their families. Friends or potential members are also invited. Members do not have to bring chairs, as Terry stated they have plenty of seats. Hope to see you there!

