

The Second Section

Minutes from the November 15, 2012 meeting

President Bernie Hanmore called the membership meeting to order at 6:26 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 Bernie Hanmore, Dennis Mead, Ed Cronin, Carl Timko, Bill McComas, Tom Collard, John Snyder, Larry Johnson, Jack Sheets, Wayne Brown, and Tom Stewart.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Ed Cronin's report on the organization's financial status noted current balances, including restricted and unrestricted balances. Also noted was the organization received its PA sales tax exemption number and identification number.

Model Railroad Club Treasurer's Report

Tom Collard presented his financial report on the model railroad club, noting there were no expenses or income.

Committee Reports -Museum-

Ed Cronin reports that the Crawford County Historical Society make take the milk bottle collection that was recently donated to the Northwestern Pennsylvania Railroad & Tooling Heritage Center and use it at the Baldwin-Reynolds

House during the holiday season. If the Crawford County Historical Society doesn't take it, the Heritage Center would take it. Dan Highams of the Heritage Center board and U.S. Bronze Foundry & Machine said he could find room for the collection to be stored, if that were the case.

Members of the Heritage Center board traveled to Roanoke, Virginia to inspect the former Erie Lackawanna SDP45 #3639. They found it needs some parts replaced and repainted. The board voted to send a letter to the executive director of the Virginia Museum of Transportation to ask them to hold the locomotive for one year with no deposit. There may be a couple of grants available to be able to offer the museum a specific sum for the locomotive. If things come together, the Norfolk Southern may be able to transport the SDP45 to Meadville at no cost.

The old bridge spans from Shenango Yard were moved in the yard and will be disassembled after Thanksgiving Day. A portion of the span will be used in the planned Heritage Center.

The siding across Mead Avenue to Lincoln Metal was torn up by Lincoln Metal. The Heritage Center is looking into acquiring the rail.

The switch at Spring St.

extension has been taken apart into three pieces and needs to be moved. Lloyd's Rental has a rubber tired forklift that could do the job, but the cost to rent it is \$1000 more than what is budgeted for. In the meantime, WNYP Railroad personnel looked over the switch and declared it in excellent condition. The WNYP Railroad then agreed to move it for free. Many thanks go to the Western New York & Pennsylvania Railroad for all of their help in the many projects of the FCVRRHS and the Heritage Center.

The plan is to acquire 800 feet of track for the siding,

-Property/Equipment-

Two air tanks were acquired from the George R. Silcott Co. on Wednesday, for installment on the #518. Terry Martin is to sandblast and paint the tanks. The tanks will probably be installed in the spring. There is other work to do on the 518. The steps need to be straightened and painted, the headlight openings need covered, the railings need installed, along with the radiator shutters, hood and doors. A new fence needs to be purchased and installed around the S2. Fencing will be priced at Home Depot and Tractor Supply. To install the planned outdoor lighting, the ground needs to be marked for where the lamps will be placed. A work

session was scheduled for Saturday, November 17, 2012 at 9 a.m.

The signal mast and signal head refurbishing is progressing nicely. The mast was painted and is reported to look new. New signal shields were made by Stewart Sheet Metal.

Jack Sheets visited the tool car and sprayed some expanding foam into the hole in the roof to plug it temporarily. He noted that one side of the car is in need of repair.

-Public Relations/Education-

Editor Bill McComas sent the copy of the latest issue of "*The Valley Express*" to Kevin Pipp for his review. The newsletter should be published soon.

A motion to approve charging non-members \$1.00 for an issue of "*The Valley Express*" newsletter was approved. The new fee begins with the issue soon to be published.

The Clarion Model Railroad Club is having its Christmas show at the Cranberry Mall in the Oil City/Franklin area located on Route 322. The FCVRRHS will have promotional material as well as a few 2013 Erie Railroad calendars for sale at this show. The show hours are Tuesdays noon to 9 p.m., Wednesdays 6 to 9 p.m., Fridays 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., Saturdays 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sundays 1p.m. to 5 p.m. The first day open is

November 20, the last day is December 30.

-Historical/Archives-

Calendar sales have been doing well. Several are still out on consignment. As of this meeting, only 55 of the 150 count purchase remains in stock (not counting those that are consigned).

-Special Events/Programs-

Due to the unavailability of adequate space to display the large HO scale layout, the train set raffle for this year is also canceled. Bernie Hanmore presented the idea of sending Toys for Tots a check in place of the funds raised from the raffle. A motion was made by Ed Cronin and seconded by Jack Sheets. The motion carried by unanimous vote. It is hoped we can resume the raffle next year.

Several model railroad open houses are occurring from now to the end of the year. The Clarion Model Railroad Club show was reported under the Public Relations/Education header. The Youngstown Model Railroad Club has theirs on December 1st, 2nd, 8th, and 9th from noon to 6 p.m. at 751 North Four Mile Run Road in Youngstown, Ohio. Admission is \$3. The Lake Shore Railway Historical Society will be having its "Christmas at the Station" starting November 24th and 25th, and then on December 1st and 2nd. The gift shop will be open. Visitors can

tour the grounds, ride a speeder car and the caboose. Plus a lunch is available in the dining car.

A question was raised as to whether the WNYP Railroad is still planning a Santa Claus train. The board will have to contact the CEO, Carl Belke regarding this event. This subject started a discussion about having weekend train rides. Ed Cronin said that the insurance for one train per month is the same as a number of trains per month. If train rides were to run, the thought is to run them on Saturday and/or Sunday, between Meadville and Corry.

-Model Railroad-

Progress of the three layouts of the model railroad club is continuing. The TT scale layout needs sources to purchase scale switches. The HO layout benchwork is half done, and is very nicely done with credit due to Bernie Hanmore. The N scale layout will have work done on it on Sunday night.

The large HO layout is in need of a work session. The session is scheduled for Wednesday November 21 at 3 p.m. at the U.S. Bronze cafeteria. Large boxes were needed to help clean up the area.

The model railroad tours were further discussed at the meeting. It is planned that the first year will be only for members of the FCVRRHS. The second

year will include non-members. A suggestion of charging \$25 per person to go on the model railroad tour. Each visitor would have a chance at operating a portion of the host layout. One suggestion was to contact either CATA or a local school bus owner to haul patrons to the layouts. The board established a research committee for the model railroad tours. Volunteering for the committee is Jack Sheets, Bernie Hanmore, and Ed Cronin. Other discussions included on a pattern to touring if a bus is full. The pattern would be to take half of the busload to one layout, while taking the other half to another nearby layout. After each operating session was done, then the two half busloads would switch layouts.

-Membership-

The FCVRRHS welcomes a new member. Don Bower of Guys Mills recently joined. Welcome aboard, Don!

The board requested an update on unpaid memberships. About 20 have not paid as yet. Several names will be cut from the roster.

Jack Sheets displayed a pin that had the number of a steam locomotive #475. He said the pins could be ordered to read "518". There would be minimum order, but these could be used to raise needed funds.

Ed Cronin noted that Dan Higham has committed to being a Life Member. Dan has done so much for the organization that includes allowing storage on his business's property. Dan is also a member of the board of the Heritage Center. Thank you, Dan!

The board agreed to change the title of the meeting from Board and General Membership meeting to just Membership meeting. The feeling was that some members felt they couldn't attend the meeting. All members are more than welcome to attend each and every meeting.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on Thursday, December 20, 2012, at 6:30 p.m., in the conference room of the U.S. Bronze Foundry & Machine, Inc., located at 18649 Brake Shoe Road, Meadville, PA. Please note, if you plan to attend, we plan to have refreshments to celebrate Christmas. Please bring something, if you can.

