



The Second Section



Minutes from the November 19, 2015 meeting

Vice President Dennis Mead called the 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, Ed Cronin, Carl and Vanessa Timko, John Snyder, Tom Stewart, Pete Gifford, and guests Bruce Yatzer and Nick Ozorak.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Ed Cronin read the monthly financial report. The balance is down considerably from last month due to the payments for transporting the boxcar. Ed noted the FCVRRHS has its first corporate membership. Larry De Young, Inc. has signed up as a Bronze Corporate member. Larry De Young is known from his involvement with the Erie Lackawanna Historical Society and the railroad books that he has written. Larry had donated a glass battery jar to the FCVRRHS in September.

Committee Reports Museum

A crew gathered at the trolley station in Cambridge Springs to lay bricks for the walkway. The result was that all outside work at the trolley station is now complete. There is plenty of

work left to do inside, though.

There is interest in either building a short Birney trolley car replica or acquiring a trolley from a nearby trolley museum. No museums have been contacted yet.

There are now two display cases at the trolley station. One is dedicated to the trolleys. These are part of the movable exhibit program the Northwest Pennsylvania Railroad & Tooling Heritage Center started years ago. The NWPARRTHC is a partnership of five entities, including the FCVRRHS.

Historical / Archives

Discussions involving this committee were of sales of merchandise and is included in the Budget/Finance Committee report.

Property / Equipment

The Bessemer and Lake Erie Railroad boxcar has been prepped for the winter, by covering open sections where the wood has broken or fallen off.

Tom Stewart mentioned that he has some hemlock boards that could be used to repair the boxcar. He also knows of a company that could cut and mill the boards for 39¢ per foot. The boards would end up being five inches wide after 1" x 6" boards are cut and milled with tongue

and groove routing. He said the company would have them ready three weeks after the order is placed and the boards are delivered. Tom volunteered to store the finished product at his place. It was noted that the wood needs at least two to five months to dry. Another choice of wood for the boxcar is yellow pine.

Sherwin-Williams personnel advised that it would be hard to get paint to stick to weather-worn boards.

No work is planned for the #518 or the Pennsylvania Railroad tool car until spring.

The board is still waiting to hear from John Nagurney about the status of the Smock Property. The plan after acquiring the property is to display the tool car.

Dennis Mead received word that an ex-Erie Lackawanna Russell snowplow is being offered to a good home. The snowplow was built for the Delaware Lackawanna & Western as #95904. It then became EL property, then Conrail #64568. It later went to the Tioga Central and ran between Wellsboro, PA and Corning, NY. It is owned by the city of Wellsboro.

Bruce Yatzer has donated several bundles of "Model Railroader" and "Trains" magazines, dating from 1989 to 2005. They will be used for

reference or to raise funds.

Dennis Mead donated four HO locomotives and four cars. An Erie RR AS-16 will be kept for the HO layout. The rest can be sold.

Public Relations / Education

The Christmas HO layout is located in the former John's Hallmark store in the Downtown Mall. The layout shares space with a Local Artisans group. Jack Sheets found an HO scale train set to raffle. Proceeds from the raffle benefit Toys For Tots, as in years past. Another raffle is a 50/50 drawing, benefiting the FCVRRHS. Prices for either ticket is \$1 each or 6 for \$5. The layout is open Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays, noon to four p.m., with the exception of Friday, December 4. The layout will be open until 6 p.m. to assure those attending the Light Up Night festivities can visit the layout.

Santa Claus portrayal Dennis Nelson would like to know if the WNYP Railroad will be having a Santa train this year. For this information, members of the board will have to talk to Carl Belke.

Nick Ozorak presented an update of efforts to start a passenger train excursion in the area. He said Allegheny College authorities are on board with providing liability coverage. A decision by the college's board of directors has not been made yet. The Western New York &

Pennsylvania Railroad's Carl Belke will have to talk to the authorities at Allegheny College as well. Nick said that Erie Insurance has met the specification sheet for coverage. He also mentioned that the Oil Creek & Titusville Railroad has MacRail as a coverage provider.

Nick said the plan is to target Meadville and Crawford County residents to ride the trains.

Local sponsorships would be needed to defray the cost of leasing the passenger cars. He would like to have Erie Railroad E8 #833 to pull the excursion, as it would be back on home rails once again. It was originally Erie RR #833, then EL #833, then Conrail #4022. It was later restored as Erie RR #833. Nick is talking with authorities from the Iowa Pacific about leasing three coaches and a dome car. As an example, he said that the "Babbling Brook", a Pullman-Standard stainless steel car has a fee of \$2500 per day plus shipping charges.

Nick said volunteers would have to be trained and coordinated to make the events run smoothly. The plan is to run two trains per weekend for seven weekends

Budget / Finance

Vanessa Timko reported that the Erie train show sales were great. The sales total was the best since the FCVRRHS started to rent tables at the show. Fourteen calendars and fourteen Erie Railroad books

were sold. Four shirts were also sold. Model railroad equipment sold well at the show. There is still plenty left from the stock Tom Collard donated from his train shop.

Carl Timko said he would start working on writing another application for the Tom E. Dailey Foundation grant, as soon as time permits.

Special Events / Programs

It is hoped members will come down to the layout and help out while the layout is on display. Jack Sheets reserved a truck for December 28 to tear down the layout and haul it back to the U.S. Bronze. The time to meet at the mall is 10 a.m. (*ed. note: This transaction occurred after the meeting. It is included here to notify all members that can help.*)

Other train shows in the area include the Clarion Model Railroad Club's Cranberry Mall show. The mall is located along U.S. Route 322 in Seneca, PA. They will be open on November 27, 28, December 5, 12 and 19 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; November 29, December 6, 13, and 20 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.; December 2, 4, 9, 11, 16 and 18 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Times for December 21, 22 and 23 are to be announced.

The Lake Shore Railway Historical Society will have its "Christmas at the Station" November 28, 29, December 8 and 9 from noon to 4 p.m. Events include Dining Car Lunch - noon to 2:30 p.m.; a

craft fair, a model railroad clinic, and speeder rides.

See you there!

Model Railroad

There was no report from the model railroad committee.

Membership

John and Linda Snyder and several other members and their spouses were interested in having the December meeting and Christmas party at Hoss's, instead of just cookies at the U.S. Bronze. Dennis Mead asked for a motion to have the meeting and dinner at Hoss's, and was so moved by Carl Timko. The motion was seconded by John Snyder. The motion passed by the unanimous decision of the attending members. Members will pay for their own meals. Hoss's will be notified that we will meet on December 17 at 6:30 p.m.

Terry Martin offered to have the annual meeting in June at his residence, with the date to be determined. A motion to accept Terry's offer was made by Ed Cronin and seconded by John Snyder. The motion carried by an unanimous decision of the attending members.

Next Meeting

The next membership meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 17, 2015 at 6:30 p.m., at Hoss's Seafood and Steak House, located across from the Park Avenue Plaza, on U.S. Routes 6, 19, and 322.

