



The Second Section



Minutes from the October 15, 2015 meeting

President Bernie Hanmore called the membership meeting to order at 6:31 p.m., on Thursday, October 15, 2015, 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 and Vanessa Timko, Bill McComas, Jack Sheets, John Snyder, Tom Stewart, Pete Gifford, Stan Niwa, and Tim Vogt.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Ed Cronin submitted his report on the financial status of the organization. Included were current balances, income from the ELHS convention, and expenses from Pipp Graphics and Designs for the newsletter.

Committee Reports Museum

Efforts are underway to complete the renovation of the trolley station in Cambridge Springs in time to open the station by the first of the year.

Historical / Archives

The sample for the 2016 calendar arrived. The attending members had the chance to look it over to approve its publishing. A motion was made by John Snyder to approve the calendar. The motion was seconded by

Carl Timko and carried by an unanimous vote. It was also decided to order 75 copies. The price is set at \$12.75 plus PA sales tax, which makes the total price \$13.50. Those that buy it online through the website must pay an additional fee for Priority Mail shipping. Those that do not buy from within the state are not required to pay the sales tax. Dennis Mead noted that the calendar now is copyrighted.

The Erie Railroad book inventory now stands at fifteen including the five Jack Sheets has to sell on his routes.

The next book will be copyrighted to protect the organization and Scott Ladner's photo collection.

Property / Equipment

The Bessemer and Lake Erie box car has arrived! It arrived Tuesday, October 13 aboard two different trucks. Hall's Excavating hauled the wheel sets and Dailey's Express hauled the body of the box car. John Snyder, Stan Niwa, and Jack Sheets were at North East on the morning of the transport to prep the box car for loading. Several components had to be disconnected or removed. Several boards had to be nailed down, as the driver did not want to transport the box car with boards partially detached. Special thanks to Industrial

Truck and Crane for lifting the box car and trucks twice; Dailey's Express for hauling the body; Hall's Excavating for hauling the trucks and some of the rigging; Ray Grabowski and the Lake Shore Railway Historical Society for the opportunity to display the boxcar; and Mr. and Mrs. David P. Miller for their generous donation that made this event possible. Thanks to all of our members that worked to bring the box car to Meadville and to everyone that supports the FCVRRHS.

A work session was scheduled for Tuesday, October 20 to clean out the interior of the box car. The interior seems to be in good shape.

John Snyder informed the attending members of a place on Liberty St. Extension across from Ranz, called Olan Wood Products. They can make tongue and grooves in supplied boards for 30¢ per foot. Their specialties are casework, counters, and mill work. It is currently undetermined how much lumber will be needed to repair the siding of the car. The lumber will need to be dried. Poplar was one of the wood species discussed for the replacement boards.

It was suggested by Denny Mead to photograph the entire box car to make sure of the locations of the hardware.

There are one or two photographs in Ken Springirth's book on the Bessemer and Lake Erie Railroad, of a similar car on the Bessemer that can be referenced if needed. Bernie Hanmore volunteered to lead a project team to handle the repairs on the car. Jack Sheets also volunteered.

Once spring arrives, priority will be given to having the #518 lettered. Stan Niwa still has about two hours of welding to do on the S2. The Meadville City government has agreed to let the organization use land in Pomona Park up to the turn in the drive, in front of the Erie Railroad #518. This would give the membership 73 feet of land to work with. The tree that was in front of the #518 is now gone. Two of the machines on display in the park will likely be moved once spring rolls around, which would necessitate two concrete pads to be poured. Some of the pads have bolts that stick up and will need to be cut down.

A discussion with Carl Belke resulted in his agreement to help with the move of the PRR tool car after the Smock Property has been acquired. It is planned to be situated on the west side of the drive in the park.

Ed Cronin mentioned the portal from the Shenango River bridge that was dismantled is available to the FCVRRHS. Ed also said the rails and ties stored by Moldex can be used by the FCVRRHS.

Member Tim Vogt not only attended his first meeting, but

donated several signs, two of which were from passenger stations in the area. Tim's donation is very much appreciated.

Public Relations / Education

The fall 2015 edition of the "Valley Express" has been published. All members should have a copy by the time this "Second Section" is released. Bernie Hanmore thanked all who are involved with the "Valley Express".

The French Creek Valley Railroad Historical Society will have a table at the Erie Train Show on Sunday November 1. Bill McComas has several items from Bill McDavid's collection that will be put on the table to sell.

A photo-op with Mr. and Mrs. David Miller, Ed Cronin, and Bernie Hanmore occurred in front of the B&LE box car on Monday, October 19.

Budget / Finance

Assistant Treasurer Vanessa Timko reports that 21 shirts have been sold since the new shirts arrived, including sales of the caboose shirts. The board will wait to order new caboose shirts, but there are only a few left to sell at the Erie Train Show. Should the board decide to order the caboose shirts, the artwork will have to be transferred from IMPR to Laurie's Embroidery. This has already been discussed amongst the involved parties and it should be no problem.

The total sales of the Erie Railroad book is 35 of the first 50 ordered. Twenty-four of the books could have been sold at the ELHS convention, but the ELHS wanted a 30% discount, which would not be feasible to the FCVRRHS. It was decided that the price of \$15 for the ELHS should be set and they have to buy 25 copies.

Carl Timko will work on another application for the Tom E. Dailey Foundation grant. Now that the box car is on the premises, there may be a better chance at securing a grant. The board suggested that if a grant was awarded, that it be used for site improvement. This would enable the organization to clean up the site, move machines, and install walkways.

Special Events / Programs

The last Railfanning Day for 2015 was held October 17, at the Painesville, Ohio Railroad Museum. The Railfanning Days allows a railfan to sit or stand on museum property to watch and photograph trains that roll by on CSX trackage.

Three events are scheduled for October 31. Old Eli's Train and Toy Show is at the Tuscarawas County fairgrounds in Dover, Ohio. Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Building a Model Railroad clinic is at the Lakeland Community College in Kirtland, Ohio between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. The flyer says admission is free. Also at the college is the Cleveland O scale 2 Rail Train Show, between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. Admission is \$7.

The Erie Train Show is Sunday, November 1 at Rainbow Gardens in Waldameer Park in Erie. Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is \$5. Don't forget to reset your clock the night before.

The Greenberg's Train and Toy Show is November 7 and 8 at the Monroeville Convention Center in Monroeville, PA. Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is \$7 in advance.

The TCA Toy Train Show at the Jamestown, N.Y. station is November 14, between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Admission is \$5.

The Great Batavia Train Show at the Clarion Hotel, Batavia, N.Y. is November 15, between 9:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Admission is \$5.

Model Railroad

Preparations should be made to spruce up the layout for the holiday seasons. Black Friday is November 27, the traditional date of the opening of the layout to the public. A venue will need to be secured. Locations discussed were the Downtown Mall and Shops @ the Bank. The trolley station was mentioned, but the renovations will not be done in time to permit the layout to be on the premises. Traffic density also plays a big part in the decision.

Membership

A motion was made by Jack Sheets to name Stan Niwa as a replacement for the late Larry Johnson, who passed away September 12. John Snyder

seconded the motion. The motion carried by an unanimous vote of the attending members. Congratulations, Stan!

As mentioned in the "Valley Express" fall 2015 edition, the FCVRRHS has three new members. Welcome, Chris Myers, Bob Moyers, and Ted Trewer!

Next Meeting

The next FCVRRHS membership meeting is Thursday, November 19, 2015, 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. Hope to see you there!

