



The Second Section



October 16, 2014

President Bernie Hanmore called the membership meeting to order at 6:32 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, Jack Sheets, John Snyder, Tom Stewart, Tom Collard, Al Reibel, Pete Gifford, and Scott Royer.

Treasurer's Report

The current financial status of the organization was read, including balances, income from the scrap metal drive and donations, and membership renewals, and the expenses. Ed also said that sixteen members have not renewed as yet.

Committee Reports

Museum

It now appears that all of the beneficiaries listed in Mr. Townley's will have agreed to pass the remaining funds from his estate to the trolley station in Cambridge Springs. Penn State University was the last to sign off in order for the Heritage Center to

obtain the funds.

The heating and air conditioning system has been installed. Wiring and the lights are being installed. The next project will be the ticket office.

The Heritage Center received a grant from the Heist Foundation for the trolley station and won a grant from a nationally known foundation.

Historical/Archives

Plans are being made to start work on a book using the photographs that appeared in the 2013 and 2014 calendars. The photographs were taken by the late Stuart Ladner. Mr. Ladner's family graciously granted the FCVRRHS use of these photos for the calendars. There will be no 2015 calendar, because of the lack of time to find suitable quality photographs. The book is expected to be published by Mike Vickey, who put out the calendars.

Secretary Carl Timko is to meet with the president of the Crawford County Historical Society, Joshua Sherretts to discuss the use of the CCHS's Erie Railroad files for future calendars and other uses.

Property/Equipment

The pledge from Mr. Miller is expected to be fulfilled in January 2015. Work at the display site has included grading and laying a base of gravel to extend the current display track to accommodate the B&LE boxcar. The WNYP Railroad has committed to supplying the necessary components and labor to install the new panel track. Many thanks to Carl Belke and his crews.

Thanks also go out to Meadville Plate Glass for installing the glass on the 518. The ALCO looks so much better.

Public

Relations/Education

The statement in the last "Second Section" about Tom Collard's appointment as the host to give a seminar to Boy Scouts, so they may acquire their model railroad badge is in error. The statement should have said the seminar was for them to earn their railroad historical society badge.

The Fall 2014 edition of the "Valley Express" has been published and sent out to the membership. This issue's feature is on the area logging railroads and is authored by Tom Stewart.

Congratulations to Bill



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McComas on a job well done as editor of the newsletter. The "*Valley Express*" has been an excellent public relations tool because of Bill's efforts. Bill is stepping down and is being replaced by Carl Timko. The Fall issue is a combined effort from both Bill and Carl, with many thanks to Kevin Pipp for laying out the newsletter for publication.

Discussions at the past two meetings, of revamping the website, has led the secretary to make up a list of proposed changes, which will be submitted to Bernie Hanmore and Dennis Mead for their review. The front page was a major concern as it was determined that it should have more "pop".

The Christmas layout will not be at the trolley station this year, rather, it will be on display next to Tom's Train Terminal in the @ the Bank shopping center in Meadville. Several factors were considered. The trolley station is still having work done on it. When the layout does go to the trolley station, there will be a need to ramp up the advertising to bring in viewers. It was determined that the layout would be set up before "Black Friday", and was planned to bring it down on

Monday, November 24. It was suggested to have railroad book author Ken Springirth to appear during the display of the layout.

Pete Gifford donated a Bachmann N scale train set for the annual raffle.

Budget/Finance

John Snyder donated the proceeds from the sale of his toolmaker's tools. Thanks, John!

The scrap metal drive is continuing. Anyone needing to get rid of their scrap metal, can take it to Lincoln Metal in Meadville and then donate the cash to the FCVRRHS. Those that do not have a vehicle to haul the scrap can contact a board member to arrange a pick up.

Special Events/Programs

The dates for the Erie Lackawanna Historical Society 2015 Fall meeting have been set for the weekend of September 18 through the 20th. Dennis Mead related the details of the cost to the ELHS and the responsibilities that will fall upon the French Creek Valley Railroad Historical Society for the event. Several speakers are being planned, tentatively including Dale Docter, Cambridge Springs historian, Pete Gifford,

author of a book on the Atlantic and Great Western Railroad, Carl Belke, WNYP RR president, and Nate Clark, local railroad historian.

Train shows in the area include the Cleveland Two Rail O scale show at the Lakeland Community College, in Kirtland, Ohio on November 1; the Erie Train Show at Rainbow Gardens on November 2. The Youngstown Model Railroad Association will have its layout open to the public on November 1,2,8,9, and December 6 and 7. They are located at the corner of Raccoon Rd. and Four Mile Run Rd. in Austintown, Ohio. The Christmas Toy and Train Show at the Lakeland Community College in Kirtland, Ohio is November 23. The Clarion Model Railroad Club will be at the Cranberry Mall in Seneca, PA (OilCity/Franklin area) starting Nov. 28. Check your email for a flyer.

Model Railroad

Now that the colder weather will be setting in, plans are being made to start working on the three layouts in the @ the Bank shopping center.

John and Lynda Snyder visited the Ashtabula



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Harbor Museum recently. They viewed an HO layout that was built to represent the harbor.

Membership

Tom Collard is seeking an investor to fund the cost of a patent fee for a new design for a freight car. Tom's store, Tom's Train Terminal has some slight modifications to accomodate an ice cream freezer.

Other News

The Lake Shore Railway Historical Society has received a Cooper-Bessemer prime mover that originally was installed in one of the GE "Erie Built" locomotives that were the test bed for the U25 series. These units tested and demonstrated on the Erie Railroad, then the motor was returned and was supposed to have been scrapped. It was used as stationary power for Cooper-Bessemer.

The Lake Shore museum alos has received former Amtrak, nee-Nickel Plate Road Pullman lightweight coach #103. Only two of this configuration for the Nickel Plate are known to have survived out of the ten built. Photos can be seen on their website at www.lakeshorerailway.com

A wellness screening program is being sponsored by Meadville AM Rotary, at the Crawford County Career and Technical Center, on Saturday, November 1, from 6 a.m. to 10 a.m. The cost is \$41, plus other charges for optional screenings. These screenings are not covered by Medicare or most insurance policies.

Next Meeting

The next membership meeting will be Thursday, November 20, 2014, 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!

