



The Second Section



Minutes from August 14, 2008 meeting

President Dennis Mead called the board and general membership meeting to order at 6:01 p.m., at the cafeteria of the U.S. Bronze and Machine, Inc., located at 18649 Brake Shoe Rd., Meadville, PA.

Attending members were Dennis Mead, Bernie Hanmore, Ed Cronin, Carl Timko, Bill McComas, Jack Sheets, Larry Johnson, Richard Biemer and his wife, Nate Clark, and Jonathan Clark.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Ed Cronin released the current balance. Twenty members have not renewed their membership as of August 14. It is possible they could be lost in the mail due to the recent change of address.

The new mailing address is: P.O. Box 632, Meadville, PA. 16335.

The new address was necessary due to mail being late or lost due to the unannounced change of address by the Crawford County Historical Society.

Ed says the FCVRRHS

may have to file a Pennsylvania state form for a change of business address. The fee in Pennsylvania is \$70.00.

Old Business - Property & Equipment

There has been no report from Al Reibel or Hunt Christie regarding the display site. Dennis Mead said that the fence should go back up before fall, but Bernie Hanmore said to wait two weeks, as the subroadbed will be prepped and laid. Bernie said it should begin at the end of August.

It is common thought that Tom Collard and the WNYP RR would furnish rails and ties. Also needed are fifty or more fish plates. Those might be acquired through the WNYP, as well.

Board member Jim Cray was thanked in absentia for donating a former Erie Lackawanna three aspect signal head. Ed Cronin volunteered to store it at his residence.

Ed says a letter was sent to the Canonsburg (PA) Chamber of Commerce,

who own the former B&LE combine #23, requesting they sell the combine to the Heritage Center for a nominal price.

Ed says he still hasn't heard from the Silk Road Transport Co. regarding a quote to transport the combine to Meadville. If it is to be shipped by rail, an FRA waiver will be required to move over the Norfolk Southern. Ed talked with B&LE trainmaster Brad Stockton who said friction bearing cars can be moved by rail, but they need a waiver from the Federal Railroad Administration. It would also limit the maximum speed on the railroad. The B&LE #23 would need new brake hoses to travel by rail. It may be possible to borrow two from EL caboose #C356.

The cleanup date for the caboose was announced as Sunday, August 24, 2008, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. It will be a wash-down only, as the wax job from last year is holding up pretty well. The local fire department will be called to supply water.

The Hobby Headquarters hobby shop of the Park Ave. Plaza was thanked for donating three magazines. Two of the issues were “*The Railroad Enthusiast*”, and the other a newsletter called “*The Trolley Museum Dispatch*”, from the New England Electric Trolley Museum, also known as Seashore Trolley Museum.

Old Business – Public Relations & Education

It was noted that with the new change of address, several forms and applications will have to be changed. Webmaster Jonathan Clark said he will make the change on the website.

Old Business – Museum

Ed Cronin noted the amount committed to the #518 Fund. He noted the specific amounts contributed by the FCVRRHS and through a CCRDA grant.

Ed says a progress report is needed to update interested parties. Currently, there is nothing to report, as several transactions are being

investigated. One is the new track bed for the #518, and possibly the refrigerator car from the Lake Shore Railway Historical Society. Also, awaiting are the #518, which is still on AC&J RR property, the reefer, and the B&LE #23.

Ed suggests forming a committee of three to put a timetable together to get the ball rolling and satisfy the interested parties.

Old Business – Historical/ Archives

A report by Nate Clark concerning the status of the ELHS archives was heard by the attending members. The ELHS archives are currently in temporary storage and are to be moved to Cleveland State University. Shelving is being delivered to CSU.

Nate says a shelf assembling party should be formed. Nate said he will forward a notice.

The ELHS was turned down for a grant to pay for the shelving. ELHS will pay for the shelving this year and hope for grants in 2009.

Old Business – Model Railroad

Trackwork is underway on the layout, with major changes being incorporated. Locally familiar sites are being added as of this report.

Old Business – Special Events/ Programs

The remaining August schedule for the caboose tour was released. August 17, the caboose will be closed due to the adjacent construction on the highway and the Crawford County Fair. August 24, the caboose will be open from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., and include the annual caboose wash. August 31, the caboose will be open from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., and volunteers are needed.

The FCVRRHS did not receive an invitation from the CCHS. Bill McComas reports that the FCVRRHS could share a table with the CCHS, but could not bring anything to sell. Further conversation revealed that reservations should be made six weeks ahead of the fair for a preferred table. It was noted the person to talk to is Bill Winters.

A vote was asked for to decide whether to acquire

a table at the fair. The vote was unanimous by attending members not to acquire a table. The FCVRRHS may put up its own display at the Crawford County Fair in 2009.

A letter was sent to the owners of the Downtown Meadville Mall (the Moss's) to describe the plan of a proposed Christmas event at the Downtown Mall. The plan is for Santa Claus to arrive at Mead Avenue aboard a WNYP train. He then would detrain and board a fire truck which would transport him to the Downtown Mall. He then would walk into the room where the layout would be displayed and throw the switch that powers the layout. Santa would then proceed to the mall concourse and talk with the children. The date of said event is Saturday November 22, 2008. Jack Sheets has talked with the mall manager, Joe Mazzone, as has Dennis Mead and Bill McComas concerning the plan. Mr. Mazzone will talk with the city government about closing Mead Avenue temporarily while Santa is being transported.

It is reported that the FCVRRHS will incur no financial outlay for this program, but members' help is expected.

The location of the layout display in the Downtown Mall will either be the storefront which housed Blockbuster, at the immediate entrance to the mall, from the main parking lot. Or it may be the same storefront that the layout was in last Christmas season. It was noted that we need to advertise in the Erie Times-News Showcase magazine. We also need volunteers to man the layout and we need to set a schedule for the layout.

Other Old Business

Former American Viscose 0-4-0 saddletank locomotive #6 will be hauling passengers on the Ashtabula Carson & Jefferson RR, August 30 and August 31, with three, possibly four trains per day. The locomotive worked originally at the Roanoke, VA facility. It was reportedly sold for scrap, but Scott Symans of Dunkirk, NY bought the rusting loco in 2004, and rebuilt it, with

modifications to conform to FRA standards. It already has hauled excursions on the Lorain & West Virginia and New York & Lake Erie RR's.

New Business - Budget/Finance

Treasurer Ed Cronin suggested a Directors' and Officers' insurance policy which covers personal liability. The average rate is about \$350 per year. Ed says he will contact various sources for quotes.

New Business - Public

Relations/Education

Submissions for inclusion in the next issue of the newsletter "*The Valley Express*", including committee reports, should be sent to Bill McComas by October 1.

New Business - Property/Equipment

Regarding an update of the PRR X29 boxcar, Nate Clark reports his conflict-of-interest with the Norfolk Southern has been ramped up, making it even more difficult to inquire about the boxcar. He states that NS is still using it for storage.

There have been no recent updates concerning the refrigerator car from the Lake Shore Railway Historical Society.

*New Business -
Model Railroad*

The work session schedule for August was released. Those that wish to work on the layout should report to the U.S. Bronze and Machine, Inc., Monday, August 26 at 6 p.m. Work is progressing, but lots more needs done.

*New Business -
Membership*

The next board and general membership meeting will be Thursday, September 18, 2008 at 6 p.m., at the U.S. Bronze and Machine, Inc., 18649 Brake Shoe Rd., Meadville, PA., in the conference room.

A motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and carried. The meeting adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

