

The Second Section

Minutes from the March 20, 2008 meeting

Old Business

President Dennis Mead called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.. Location of the meeting was at the U.S. Bronze Foundry & Machine, Inc., 18649 Brake Shoe Road, Meadville, PA.

The minutes were recorded by Dan Higham, substituting for Carl Timko. The minutes were edited and compiled by Carl Timko.

Members attending the meeting were Ed Blenner, Huntington Christie, Jonathan Clark, Nate Clark, Ed Cronin, Dan Higham, Lance Johnson, Bill McComas, Dennis Mead, Al Reibel, and Jack Sheets.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Ed Cronin reported the cash on-hand, the amount of a certificate of deposit, and that he will be making a request from the Harold Heist Foundation Fund for a grant.

Ed also reported a request from First Industries of Pennsylvania for a feasibility study for the proposed Railroad and Tooling Heritage Center. This study is a civil engineering study and business plan. Eleven thousand dollars will be needed for a matching grant. The projected groundbreaking is in 2011.

Old Business - Property/Equipment

A question was raised as to when the FCVRRHS would want to take possession of the property from the city of Meadville. It was agreed to wait as long as possible, considering the problems which go with owning property.

There was a discussion concerning the refrigerator car that the Lake Shore Railway Historical Society has given to the FCVRRHS. Dennis Mead asked members Hunt Christie and Al Reibel to make preparations for the move to Meadville. A timeline was not set yet.

Al Reibel and Nate Clark asked the board to consider including a discussion about the tilt board signal, located in New Castle, on the agenda at the next meeting.

Problems persist in acquiring electricity at the display site. Al Reibel has obtained a new DR number. Penelec is planning to drop its outdoor lighting program and is not adding any new ones. The FCVRRHS may have to pursue the connection as a private user.

Ed and Suanne Cronin met with Glen Campbell regarding B&LE 2-10-4 #643, in Pittsburgh. Hardly anything has changed. Mr. Campbell requests that the engine be housed if it is brought north to Meadville.

Public Relations

Bill McComas asked all committee leaders to please get their scripts to him for inclusion in the next "Valley Express" newsletter. He needs them before the middle of April.

Old Business - Special Events/Programs

Attendance was low for the tour of the General Electric museum on March 1, 2008. The museum is open to the public every first Saturday of the month during the winter season.

New Business - Property/Equipment

Nate Clark has introduced the possibility that a Pennsylvania Railroad class X29 boxcar, currently in Sharon, may be available. It is currently in yellow paint with a wooden roof. (Note: PRR painted its maintenance of way cars yellow). Ed Cronin made a motion to pursue acquiring the boxcar; Hunt Christie seconded the motion.

Jack Sheets is working to obtain a flagpole from the VFW club for the display site. There are problems with moving it, but Jack seems to believe anything is possible.

New Business - Special Events/Programs

The scheduled date for the

Railroad Roundhouse was changed from June 21, 2008 to June 28, 2008, to avoid conflicting with Titusville's One-Day Museum. The Railroad Roundhouse event will be held in the Downtown Mall, Meadville, Pa.

The Erie Lackawanna caboose will be open for public viewing beginning on the Memorial Day weekend and continue throughout the summer on Sunday afternoons only.

New Business – Membership

Dennis Mead reviewed a list of nominations for the upcoming elections. Dennis Mead has one more year as President. Bernie Hanmore is to be nominated for Vice President, replacing Al Reibel. Ed Cronin is to be nominated to continue as treasurer. Carl Timko has one more year as secretary. Bill McComas is to be nominated to be nominated to continue as a board member. Jack Sheets is to be nominated as a board member.

Ed Cronin proposed that all future board and general membership meetings be combined. It was agreed by a consensus of the board members present.

The meeting was then adjourned to the upstairs cafeteria, where the model railroad layout is erected. A long discussion ensued as to what to do in rebuilding the layout. It was agreed that major construction will be

involved. It was also agreed that several committees will be needed formed. The first order of business for the layout would be for Dan Higham to do some preliminary work, including installing 1/4" plywood to all joints, installing new centering pins and bolt holes as opposed to the screw mechanism currently employed. Dan would also extend the front to make it square with the rest of the layout. The controls would then be moved to the front and eliminate the need for the center hole for operators. After this is all completed, the upgrading of the layout will proceed. A need for a Design Committee to be organized is noted.

Please note, the next meeting is scheduled for April 17, 2008, at 6 p.m., at the U.S. Bronze Foundry & Machine, Inc., 18649 Brake Shoe Road, Meadville, PA. Brake Shoe Road is located north of Meadville, off of Routes 6 and 19.

Things are getting interesting now with the rebuilding of the layout, upcoming events, preparations for the arrival of EL S2 #518, and the reefer from North East, Pa. So come and help with planning for these events.

