



The Second Section



Minutes from September 18, 2008 meeting

President Dennis Mead called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m., in the conference room of the U.S. Bronze & Machine, Inc., located at 18649 Brake Shoe Road, Meadville, Pa.

Attending were Dennis Mead, Carl Timko, Larry Johnson, Dan Higham, Al Reibel, Jack Sheets, Pete Gifford and his son Joe.

Treasurer's Report

Ed Cronin submitted his report respectfully via email. Disclosed were the current balance and the announcement of the receipt of a \$200 grant from the Harold Heist Foundation Trust B for the purchase of paint and supplies .

Ed also disclosed the Liability and Caboose insurance is paid up to February 2009. It was discussed earlier of the need to obtain Director's and Officer's insurance. Ed received a quote from C.P. Morton Insurance for liability and caboose insurance and a quote for directors and officers insurance. The total would be nearly \$600 less than what the current

insurer's quote. Ed suggests changing carriers at the end of the term of the current policy.

As of September 18, twenty members have not sent in their renewals. This may be due to the change of address of the Crawford County Historical Society, where the FCVRRHS formerly received its mail. Second notices have been sent out by Ed on August 1, 2008.

Please note : if you haven't sent your membership renewal yet, make sure it is sent to FCVRRHS, P.O. Box 632, Meadville, PA 16335.

Old Business - Property/Equipment

The last day for viewing the caboose was August 31. Next year's opening day will be discussed.

Photos inside the caboose are being removed for the winter.

Dennis brought to the board's attention that we need to make a commitment to bring the B&LE combine #23 to Meadville. Reports are that there is another party interested in acquiring the

combine. No bids have been received as yet to haul the car to Meadville.

A letter was sent to the Norfolk Southern regarding shipping the combine to Meadville via NS rails. It was found that an FRA waiver would be needed to ship a friction bearing equipped car over the rails.

Jack Sheets reported his efforts on acquiring a flagpole for the display site. More information regarding this is under New Business.

There has been no progress at the display site as yet for the track extension. Tom Collard is said to provide needed rails through the WNYP RR. Ties were located in Ohio along the Ashtabula line by Hunt Christie. A permission slip is needed to acquire the ties. Dennis Mead said he may be able to get a concrete block (hauling) truck to haul the ties to Meadville.

A conversation with Lake Shore Railway Historical Society president Ray Grabowski took place regarding the acquisition of a mast for the signal head recently donated by

Jim Cray.

*Old Business -
Special
Events/Programs*

The Ashtabula Carson & Jefferson Railroad had a small steam locomotive haul excursion trains on August 30 and 31 at Jefferson, Ohio. Dennis related that it hauled three loaded passenger cars and a caboose. Not bad for a little 0-4-0. The locomotive was originally built for the American Viscose Co. in Roanoke, Virginia.

Plans for the Santa Claus event were reviewed. Plans are for Santa to arrive on a WNYP train at Mead Avenue in Meadville, then ride to the Downtown Mall on a fire engine. The event is planned for Saturday, November 22, at 11 a.m.

Dennis reports from Tom Collard, the WNYP may provide an office car for the event.

*Old Business -
Model Railroad*

The latest work session on the layout was held Monday September 15. Progress was reported. More work needs to be

done to have it ready by November 22 for the Santa Claus event and display at the Downtown Mall. Announcements will be made on the next work session date(s).

*Old Business -
Public
Relations/Education*

Submissions are needed to be sent to Bill McComas by October 1 to be included in this quarter's newsletter, "*The Valley Express*".

*New Business -
Property Equipment*

There is a report that the owner of the trolley station in Cambridge Springs has willed the building and surrounding land to the Crawford County Historical Society, which may be beneficial to the FCVRRHS and the Heritage Center museum. Some of the ideas for its use include storing archives, use as a satellite museum, displaying one or more layouts. It also has the capacity to store several full sized railroad cars on the siding(s).

The WNYP Railroad's former PRR tool/baggage car may be available for display and use.

Jack Sheets has set a date for having equipment come in from the city of Meadville to help set the 103 milemarker.

Jack is ready to get started touching up the interior of the caboose. Questions rose regarding stipulations by ELHS to painting or touching up the interior. Dennis said he will talk to Nate Clark regarding these questions. Al Reibel suggested contacting Larry DeYoung. There was a discussion of changes Conrail made to this caboose during its ownership.

A suggestion by Dennis was made regarding obtaining a portable generator for power to the caboose and display site. If negotiations with Penelec do not move forward, it may be a priority.

Al Reibel reports nothing new from Penelec. Jack Sheets says the pole by Seco-Warwick has one street light on it. Jack also reported that Chuck Larson indicated we may have to set three poles for electric service, at a substantial cost.

Jack reports a twenty foot flagpole was donated

by George Ferrari of Meadville Tool Grinding, Inc. Mr. Ferrari also belongs to the Elks Lodge.

New Business - Museum

A meeting with the Meadville Area Sewer Authority was held at the display site regarding underground facilities and whether any may pose a problem in future construction.

There were discussions on possible changes in the layout design of the museum. Placement of the shop machines currently on display in the park was discussed as well.

A new entrance from the French Creek Parkway, also known as the arterial route, and access road was discussed. If a certain level of intention is shown, approval from PennDOT may be attained. Dan Higham says state money should be available to construct a public access road to the museum.

If there is a new design to the museum layout, passenger cars could be coupled together on the other side of the access road or museum.

Al Reibel raised a

question of whether the FCVRRHS is keeping to its original goals. Dennis Mead says Ed Cronin's vision of the museum is the plan closest being followed. There was discussion regarding the acquisition of equipment, whether it is of historical significance, as having a "junkyard" isn't in the best interest of the organization.

Plans of the museum building were discussed. It is thought that the archives could be stored on the second floor and displays, possibly the model railroad layout will be on the first floor.

New Business - Public Relation/Education

The Rainbow Gardens railroad show in Erie is the first week of November, usually on Sunday. A date will be announced soon.

The FCVRRHS will be represented and it was determined magazines, t-shirts and the sign from the old Meadville depot, and the sandwich board will be needed at the show.

New Business - Membership

The next meeting will be

Thursday October 16, 2008, at 6 p.m., at the U.S. Bronze & Machine, Inc., 18649 Brake Shoe Road, Meadville, PA 16335

A motion was made for adjournment. The motion was seconded and carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

