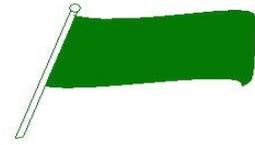


# The Second Section



Minutes of the February 21, 2008 meeting

President Dennis Mead opened the board meeting at 6:14 p.m., in the President's Room of the Crawford County Historical Society, 411 Chestnut St., Meadville, PA. Members attending were Dennis Mead, Larry Johnson, Jim Cray, Bill McComas, Dan Higham, and Carl Timko. Ray Grabowski of the Lake Shore Railway Historical Society also was present. Members that came in later for the following program were Nate and Jonathan Clark, Jack Sheets, Larry Smith, Tom Barratt, and Ed Ferguson.

### *Treasurer's Report*

Cash on hand is a total of \$2215.45, which includes a grant of \$1500 received on January 28, 2008 from the Crawford Heritage Foundation for moving the # 518. Dennis sent a thank-you letter to the Foundation for their generosity.

Also included in the Treasurer's report is a \$10,000 CD, which will mature on April 8, 2008.

### *Old Business - Property & Equipment*

Jim Cray's electrician experienced the same problem with Penelec in getting service to the display site. He suggested a new DR number, which refers to the work order.

There has been no contact from SMS Enterprises who were to make a proposal in regards to the brick for the proposed walkway at the display site.

It was revealed in a conversation between Dennis Mead and AC&J RR CEO Bob Callahan, and his business partner Don Akins, that the Cleveland Electric Illuminating Co. had applied latex paint when they painted # 518 in the red, white, and blue bicentennial colors. The latex paint could be removed with a pressure washer and solvent to reveal the original Erie Lackawanna paint, saving thousands of dollars in the removal and disposal of the old paint and repainting. It would make the #518 the only ex-Erie Lackawanna engine still in

its original paint, according to Dennis.

The Pennsylvania RR caboose stove was moved to Ed Cronin's barn for storage.

Dennis noted that Ed Cronin had met with the owner of B&LE 2-10-4 #643, but does not know of an details of the conversation.

### *Old Business - Museum*

Dennis Mead announced he will be replacing Suanne Cronin as an alternate on the Heritage Museum board.

### *Old Business - Special Events/Programs*

The General Electric Museum had (by the time of this report) been open to the FCVRRHS members on Saturday, March 1. Ben Anthony is the host and will have/had a roster of the FCVRRHS members for checking in at the guardhouse off of Franklin Ave. in Erie, PA.

Dennis Mead wants to get in touch with Bob and Katherine Moss once they get back in town to talk about planning a Christmas event at the

Downtown Mall.

### *Old Business - Model Railroad*

The FCVRRHS will have a booth at the Rainbow Gardens train show in Erie, PA, on March 2. A request for volunteers to help man the booth and greet visitors was made.

Dennis asked whether there was any indication of when work on restoring the layout may begin.

[Note: more news regarding the layout is at the end of this report, in the "next meeting" announcement].

### *New Business - Budget/Finance*

A thank-you letter was sent to member John Spears for his donation toward the painting of #518.

### *New Business - Membership*

The annual dinner and election of officers and board members is coming up. Suggestions made as to where to have the event included Hoss's and at a dining car at the Lake Shore Railway Historical Society of North East, PA.

Jonathan Clark was reintroduced as the webmaster, and thanked for the progress on the website. A recommendation to update the Model Railroad section was made.

Board member Huntington Christie was to be admitted to Hamot Hospital in Erie, on February 22, 2008 for a double by-pass surgery. A get-well card was circulated for signing by the attending members.

### *New Business - Public Relations/Education*

The next printing of the FCVRRHS newsletter, "The Valley Express" will be the first of June. Committee chairmen should get their submissions to Bill McComas between April 1 and April 15.

Bill McComas and Jonathan Clark will meet to discuss placing the newsletter on the FCVRRHS website.

Jim Cray had talked to George Deshner, a member of the Conneaut Lake Park board of directors. If the park can get itself designated as an

operating museum, and get at least one third of the rides running, including the train ride, the FCVRRHS can gain some publicity by having members attend and operate the park train.

### *New Business - Property/Equipment*

The Erie RR/EL milemarker 103, that had been located beside the Seco/Warwick building has been moved to the display site. However, only the top four feet of the marker survived the move. A method of repairing it for display needs to be investigated.

Ray Grabowski, president of the Lake Shore Railway Historical Society has offered a refrigerator car that is currently sitting on LSRHS property. The reefer has roller bearing trucks, but will need air hoses changed and a brake valve replaced before moving the car to Meadville. The brakes are said to be in good shape. It was suggested to contact Tom Collard of the WNYP about possibly borrowing a brake valve.

Dennis mentioned a

physical inspection of the reefer must be done before it is moved. He would like Al Reibel and Hunt Christie to do the inspection.

Mr. Grabowski suggested having Bill Burt or Tom Collard initiate the contact with CSX to pick up the car and move it to the B&P's interchange. From there it would be taken to Corry, where the WNYP could pick it up and bring it into Meadville.

### *New Business - Museum*

Ray Grabowski explained the benefits of area railroad historical societies and museums joining to form a consortium. He said that the NRHS has double its dues, causing whole chapters to disappear. A consortium would be better able to get the attention of local politicians for the purpose of added publicity and funding. It could enable the museums and historical societies to buy group insurance, which should be cheaper than if each entity were to buy it separately.

Group meetings would be held to keep each member

up with the events of others. Sharing of information would benefit all members, such as helping groups with lesser experience in fundraising.

It is planned to meet in April, in Meadville, at a site to be determined.

Ray has invited all FCVRRHS members to the Lake Shore Railway Historical Society's April dinner, at which the featured speaker will be Steve Barryk, editor of "Railfan and Railroad" magazine.

The board meeting ended at 7:02 pm, after which Dennis Mead presented his lecture on the Erie Railroad's early years and development of their steam locomotive fleet, between 1890 and 1930.

He also examined the effects the steam locomotive had on the labor force of the Erie RR.

Dan Higham reviewed the past two programs on the Erie Railroad that had been held at the Crawford County Historical Society, before introducing Dennis as the speaker of the night's program.

### *Next Meeting*

The next meeting will be at 6 p.m. on Thursday, March 20, 2008, at the U.S. Bronze, 18649 Brake Shoe Road, north of Meadville..

Directions coming from Meadville and points south: Use the arterial by-pass or use US Route 19/6 north, pass over the railroad tracks, Brake Shoe Road, is on the left. From the north use Route 19/6 south, about 2 miles south of Saegertown, pass Black Road, cross over the French Creek bridge. Brake Shoe Road is on the right, just after the bridge.

Follow Brake Shoe Road to the back of the foundry. The doors are located through an alleyway and to the right.

One of the topics of the meeting will be the restoration of the layout. A work session on the layout may follow. General membership is invited to the board meeting.



