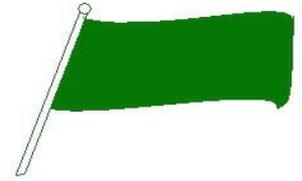


The Second Section



Minutes from January 17, 2008 meeting

President Dennis Mead opened the first board meeting of 2008, at 7 p.m., at the Crawford County Historical Society, 411 Chestnut St., Meadville, Pa.

Attending were Dennis Mead, Al Reibel, Ed Cronin, Carl Timko, Larry Johnson, Jim Cray, Bill McComas, Dan Higham, Bernie Hanmore, Ben Anthony, Ed Ferguson, and Jack Sheets. Anne Stewart attended briefly.

Treasurer's Report

Ed Cronin reports the current cash-on-hand is \$821.35. He reports also that the FCVRRHS now has a \$10,000, 92-day CD, maturing in April 2008, with an interest rate of 3.5%. Income since the November meeting totals \$240.25, from donations and sales during the layout display in the Downtown Mall. Expenditures is \$119.00 for the webpage.

Also, the FCVRRHS has applied for a \$3000 grant from the Crawford Heritage Foundation, for the purpose of transporting ALCO S2 # 518 to Meadville.

Old Business - Property/Equipment

The 39 foot sections of rail that is being donated by the WNYP RR is coming from the Machias line. WNYP crews are to bring the rail down to an area where FCVRRHS members

can gain access to it.

It was suggested that the irregular end of the rail at the display site need to be cut clean to join up with the new rail.

It was discussed how much rail might be needed for the #518. For the two rails needed, one and a half 39 foot sections each are needed.

Jack Sheets reports that the FCVRRHS will soon have a flagpole for the display site.

Al Reibel is still persuing service from PENELEC. At last report, PENELEC required a pole number and a new DR number (for service identification). They also told Al that the FCVRRHS would need to pay for the transformer. Al explained that there is a transformer already on the pole. Other stipulations include that the service box cannot be mounted on or near the pole. It must be 25 feet away from the pole. Al is still waiting for a reply.

Jim Cray said he would ask his personal electrician for any tips to help extradite service from PENELEC.

Old Business - Special Events/Programs

The program scheduled for this evening, January 17, was postponed until February 21, 2008, at 7 pm, in the President's room of the Crawford County Historical Society. The

topic will be "The Erie RR - the Early Years, 1890 - 1930".

The FCVRRHS is signed up for a booth at the model railroad show and sale at Rainbow Gardens, Erie, Pa., on Sunday March 2.

Volunteers are needed to help out. Show hours are 10 am to 4 pm.

The book fair, held at the Crawford County Historical Society, on December 1, was not a monetary success. No sales were recorded, but several membership applications were recorded, and several children were fascinated by the small layout brought in by Tom Barrett.

Old Business - Membership

Six new members have joined since the last meeting in November. The board welcomes Marceline Antinore, Richard Biemer, John Hoffman, Chuck Lederer, and the first two junior members, Jesse Thompson, and Austin Prosek.

Other Old Business

Dennis Mead informed the board that the area railroad historical societies will be meeting in the spring, no date set as yet. The venue is likely to be in Meadville. The meeting will be to form a coalition among the societies to promote the sharing of information and

aiding in fundraising.

New Business – Model Railroad

The layout operation in the month of December was a great success. Donations and sales were the best of any public event held by the FCVRRHS. The layout was well received by the public judging from the hundreds of visitors that viewed the layout. Media coverage included articles by the Meadville Tribune and Erie Times-News (Neighborhood section), and announcements by at least one radio station.

Jim Cray was thanked for bringing Mr. and Mrs. Moss to the FCVRRHS. Without his efforts, and the cooperation from the Moss's, and the Downtown Mall, the layout display would not have been possible.

New Business – Events/Programs

Dennis Mead suggest having Santa Claus transported via the WNYP RR from Meadville Yard to Mead Avenue, where he will board another vehicle, such as a fire truck, and driven to the Downtown Meadville Mall. This would be in conjunction with a layout operation by the FCVRRHS.

Member Ben Anthony announced that there will be an open tour of the General Electric museum in Erie, Pa., Saturday, March 1, from 10 am to 2 pm.

Entrance will be made off of Franklin Avenue. There will be a guard at the west side gate; members can explain there that they are with the FCVRRHS tour. The GE museum tour is a self-guided tour with a 25 minute video of the building of a locomotive. It should be noted that no tour of the plant buildings is included in this tour.

Ed Cronin suggested for Jonathan Clark, the webmaster, to include the announcement on the website.

New Business – Property/Equipment

A Pennsylvania RR caboose stove is to be donated to the society by John Kerr. A few members are to transport it to Ed Cronin's residence for the time being.

SMS Enterprises of Erie, has contacted Dennis Mead about selling engraved bricks as a fundraiser and to lay the walkway along the display site. The company will be sending a quote via mail.

Ray Grabowski of the Lake Shore Railway Historical Society has offered a refrigerator car, the HFPX #162, to the FCVRRHS. The car has rollerbearing trucks and is fully insulated. It will need paint and new reporting marks. Some of the uses for this car could be to store records and artifacts, or for displays, including the layout. The board voted

unanimously to accept the offer.

The board will have to research the cost of moving it to Meadville. Possible shipping routes could be CSX from the LSRHS, to an interchange in Erie with the B&P, then to Corry to interchange with the WNYP, who would then haul it to Meadville.

Dennis Mead will be inspecting the car in a couple of Saturdays.

Anyone wanting to travel to North East to see the car at the same time, can talk to Denny to determine a time to meet.

Al Reibel suggests to use the roller bearing trucks from the reefer to haul the #518.

Ed Cronin will be travelling to Pittsburgh to inspect and investigate the possibility of bringing B&LE 2-10-4 #643 up to Meadville on loan, and for display only. A passenger car, the "Dwight D. Eisenhower" may accompany the #643, should it be transported to Meadville. They are currently stored in a warehouse that is falling down, and the owner needs to find a home for them before the building falls in on them. Ed has suggested to encase the #643 in glass and be displayed indoors of the proposed museum.

The cost projections to bring the ALCO S2 #518 to Meadville and set up for display was announced. The City of Meadville is

expected to donate the land to the society for \$1. Track donation is by the WNYP RR. Al Reibel said he will check with Tom Collard of the WNYP about the rail. The ballast needs to be purchased. Site preparations will be with the society members' labor. Sandblasting and primer coat is estimated at \$9500. Painting is estimated at \$8500. Transportation from the AC&J to Meadville is estimated at \$3000. Moving the locomotive on to the display site, using cranes, is estimated at \$3500. One grant of \$3000, from the Crawford Heritage Foundation is expected so far. Total cost estimate is \$24,500. The projected opening for display is 2009.

New Business - Museum

A new grant writer had been recruited. Two applications for \$30,000 each have been completed. One is for a feasibility study and the other is for a business study. Ed Cronin reports there are two options available, a three to one match and a one to one match. Grants are to be awarded in December. The projected first turn of soil to build the museum is in 2010.

New Business - Membership

Thanks were given to members Ed Cronin, for work on the Heritage

Program, Bill McComas for his work on the Valley Express newsletter, Jonathan Clark for his efforts in revamping the society's website, Jack Sheets and Carl Timko for their efforts with the layout during its display.

Condolences to Gene Vilkie and his family. Gene's father-in-law, Mr. Maietta, passed away in November.

The board meeting ended at 8:00 p.m.

The general membership meeting convened at 8:00 p.m. Additional members attending were Pete Gifford and John Hoffman.

A short summary of the board meeting was read to bring the general membership up to speed.

Budget/Finance

New T-shirts are needed to sell, especially kids' sizes. It was noted that several opportunities were missed from not having those sizes.

Public Relations/Education

Dennis Mead related about a scout visit to the layout. Their scoutmaster will be calling to arrange a private showing of the caboose.

Al Reibel raised the possibility of displaying artifacts in an empty store front at the Downtown Mall. Displays, such as authentic artifacts and the showing of the difference in model railroad scales, are a few possible ideas.

Property/Equipment

The projected opening of the caboose for tours is June 1, 2008.

Jack Sheets received a second quote of \$16,000 to \$18,000 for sandblasting the old paint off of the #518.

Events/Programs

This year's Railroad Roundhouse is scheduled for June 21, 2008. Possible sites were discussed, but nothing decided upon. Speaker are to be announced, however, one possible speaker may be Bill Burt of the WNYP. The last of the series of railroad history programs, "EL/Conrail/WNYP 1960-present" is scheduled for this date.

The board and general membership meeting adjourned at 8:50pm

The next meeting is scheduled for February 21, 2008, at 6 p.m., at the Crawford County Historical Society. The third program of the railroad history series, "Erie Railroad's Early Years, 1890-1930" will be presented by Dennis Mead at 7p.m. in the President's room of the CCHS. Entrance to the program will be off of East St.