



The Second Section



Minutes from July 17, 2008 meeting

President Dennis Mead called the meeting to order at 6:09 p.m., at the caboose display site, along the French Creek Parkway, Meadville, Pa.

Attending were members Dennis Mead, Bernie Hanmore, Carl Timko, Jack Sheets, Bill McComas, Scott Ladner, Nate Clark, Jonathan Clark, Ed Ferguson, and guest/late new member Dave Hollern.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Ed Cronin filed his report via email as he could not attend the evening's meeting.

As of July 15, 25 members have not sent in their 2008-2009 dues, which totals out to \$460.

Ed listed the cash on hand total, and noted the CD was cashed out on July 10, 2008.

A new money market account was opened with a deposit from funds from the FCVRRHS and the Heritage Center, of which came from a CCRDA grant.

A contract was signed on June 17, with Porter

Consulting Engineers, to be paid from the money market fund, for an engineering study at the site of the proposed museum. The firm will evaluate the site and confirm that the display track can be extended at the existing location. P.C.E. believes no changes are required and the track extension program may proceed.

Old Business - Property/Equipment

The FCVRRHS received an offer of former B&LE passenger/baggage car #23, that was later converted into a dining car. The car was built in 1925 by the Pressed Steel Car Co. It is almost certain that it served Meadville at one time. There is no charge for the car, only shipping, which is estimated to be between \$10,000 and \$15,000. We are working on a quote to have it shipped from Canonsburg to Meadville by highway.

Representatives of the FCVRRHS toured the Cooper-Bessemer plant of

Grove City with Glenn Campbell, owner of B&LE 2-10-4 #643. The owner of the plant is receptive to the idea to store #643 at the plant until we can purchase it from the Steel City Railway Historical Society. Mr. Campbell is investigating the cost to move it to Grove City from its present location.

The track at the Cooper-Bessemer plant is still complete into the plant.

The refrigerator car is currently on hold, but it is anticipated to place the car on display between the caboose and #518.

The possibility of getting the rails from the site Chipsco excavated is gone. Chipsco scrapped out the track.

Old Business - Museum

The museum has received a grant from the state of Pennsylvania to be used for site engineering, EPA phase I evaluation, and large color conceptual drawings of the museum complex.

Officials met with a

professional fund-raiser to discuss a plan for funding the museum.

Representatives of the museum met with city officials and Ashley Porter, of Porter Consulting Engineers, to present his findings to the city planners. The city seems very interested in helping us with the project.

Old Business - Public Relations/Education

Results from the past two caboose tours are mixed. Only two visitors showed up on July 6. July 13 was the day Cool 101.7 FM had their radio remote at the caboose. Twenty plus visitors toured the caboose, while others passed by acknowledging the caboose tour with their car horns.

The tour on July 20th was to be held, but road construction in the immediate vicinity hampered the accessibility to the caboose, so it was later decided to not open.

The caboose will again be open on July 27, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Volunteers are needed!

The new issue of the "Valley Express" newsletter is now out.

Great job, Bill (McComas)!

Old Business - Special Events/Programs

The Railroad Roundhouse event was held June 28 at the Downtown Mall. Attendance was less than anticipated, partly due to the cancellations of speakers and vendors.

Old Business - Model Railroad

The work on the layout continued with Jack Sheets, Ed Cronin, Dan Higham, and others attending. Efforts are underway to disassemble the old layout and redesign a new trackplan.

Old Business - Membership

As of the start of meeting, there were two new members, Steve Sweeney and Bill Schopf. Later, Dave Hollern joined the organization. Welcome to the FCVRRHS, Steve, Bill, and Dave!

New Business -

Public Relations/Education

Dennis Mead had sent a letter to Mrs. Moss, concerning a Christmas program, bringing Santa Claus to Mead Avenue on a WNYC train, and then transporting him to the Downtown Mall. It is planned Santa would then turn on the power to the layout and return to the lobby for the children. It is planned to have Cool 101.7 FM and Joe Vilkie cover the festivities. Dennis later received a letter from the Tri-County Developers (official owners of the mall). They are interested in the project, but help from members will be needed. We will need to set a date for the event. We will need volunteers to help coordinate the event. We need a liaison with the mall personnel to plan the details. It is thought Mr. Carlos Schaumbaugh may be the Santa. Nate Clark suggested to have a stand-in ready in case Mr. Schaumbaugh is unavailable.

The radio remote held at the caboose on July 13 got some amazing results. Dennis extends thanks to

Joe Vilkie and the crew from Cool 101.7 FM.

Webmaster Jonathan Clark is waiting for the "Valley Express" to be emailed to him as one file, so he may post it on the website.

We need volunteers to host the caboose tours on Sundays from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. July 27 is the next date of the tour. The schedule for August is the 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24, and 31st.

New Business - Property/Equipment

The track extension project got the go-ahead to proceed. There will be enough room for the #518, the refrigerator car, and the caboose.

New Business - Model Railroad

The next layout work session is scheduled for Monday July 21 at 6 p.m. at the U.S. Bronze and Machine, Inc., 18649 Brake Shoe Rd., Meadville, Pa. It is realized that the announcement will be late in this issue of "The Second Section". The secretary of the FCVRRHS had emailed all

members receiving email about this schedule.

Other New Business

Thanks go to Maryanne Martin for her work on grants for the organization.

It was noted by Mrs. Martin that grants are available for "green" projects, as suggested by Carl Timko concerning solar power for outside lighting.

The FCVRRHS received a thank-you letter from the Titusville Historical Society for our participation in their One-Day Museum event.

Dennis thanked Ray Grabowsky of the Lake Shore Railway Historical Society for inviting Dennis and Ed Cronin to a discussion with a representative from SCORE (Service Corps of Retired Executives).

Dennis received a letter from the Eckarts' relating their family's railroading history. He also thanked Audrey "Pooks" Lavery for her input on the subject.

A gentleman that attended the caboose tour on July 13, identified one of the machines on display

in the park as one that fixes couplers. We hope we can sit down with him again and record more information about these machines.

New Business - Membership

The next board and general membership meeting will be held August 14, 2008 at 6 p.m., at the U.S. Bronze and Machine, Inc. Please note the date -- it will be a week earlier than usual as the Crawford County Fair will occur during the usual week of our meetings.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting, seconded, and carried at 7:02 p.m.



