



The Second Section



Minutes from May 15, 2008 meeting

President Dennis Mead called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m., in the conference room of the U.S. Bronze Foundry and Machine, Inc., 18649 Brake Shoe Road, Meadville, Pa.

Members in attendance were Dennis Mead, Bill McComas, Jim Cray, Carl Timko, Loyd Mitchell, Ed Cronin, Bernie Hanmore, Larry Johnson, Larry Smith, Nate Clark, Jonathan Clark, and Jack Sheets.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Ed Cronin reported the balances of the organization's check book and certificate of deposit..

The organization is to receive a grant from the Crawford County Redevelopment Authority. The amount is less than what was applied for, but will be invested in a money market fund which is to be managed by the Heritage Center.

Ed met with Ashley Porter of Porter Consulting Engineers for the purpose of discussing a civil engineering study for planning the museum. It is possible the caboose and display track may have to be moved.

Old Business -

Property & Equipment

Jack Sheets finished painting the PRR milemarker. It looks real

nice! Thanks, Jack.

All construction efforts at the display site are on hold for one month while the civil engineering study is being conducted. This includes acquiring electrical service.

The Ashtabula Carson & Jefferson Railroad will be receiving an ex-Conrail 250 ton crane. They will use it to lift the prime mover out of the #518 and switch the trucks. While the construction on the display site is on hold, this allows the AC&J an extra bit of time to work on the ALCO.

Nate Clark still has the potential conflict of interest between his business with the Norfolk Southern and the possibility of asking NS about the availability of the PRR X29 boxcar. Nate thinks the chances are good that NS would be willing to part with it. NS is currently using it for storage. The boxcar has friction bearing trucks, which means it probably would have to be trucked in or be set in a gondola for the trip to Meadville. The possibility exists that the refrigerator car from the Lake Shore Railway Historical Society could be used to trade for the boxcar. Nate will report on any progress made regarding the boxcar.

A suggestion was made to trade the rollerbearing trucks of the refrigerator car to the Western New York

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Pennsylvania RR for a set of Bettendorf trucks, painting the reefer and moving it to Meadville. WNYP could use the trucks in its rebuilding of its DIFCO dump cars.

Thank you letters were sent to DeVore Construction, Inc. for a donation of a four inch galvanized drain pipe, to Dunn Construction for a donation of a load of gravel, to Peterson Auto for a donation of paint for the caboose, and to Jim Cray for his donation of memorabilia to be displayed in the caboose.

Jack Sheets and Bernie Hanmore reported the flagpole that was recently donated, can be moved anytime. There is no time limit to remove it from its current location.

Members of the society visited the Bessemer & Lake Erie RR 2-10-4 #643 recently. The tender was found to be in great condition. The locomotive needs some minor work, as some parts are damaged or missing. The engine is able to be operated on compressed air, using relatively low pressure. The engine was appraised in 1999 at \$1,000,000.00. Mr. Campbell would like to move the #643 this year due to the deterioration of the building it is stored in. A museum in Buffalo and the

Ohio Central RR are also interested in it. Mr. Campbell also has seventeen passenger cars including the Presidential car. Two options, if the FCVRRHS were to acquire the #643 would be to store it in a building at the Cooper-Bessemer facility in Grove City, or move it on-site. Two hundred thousand dollars in matching money for a grant would be needed. To raise this kind of money, local businesses would be sought to sponsor the effort. Ed Cronin suggests putting the grant money into an escrow account and make sure the locomotive is intact and operational before transferring the funds.

Old Business - Special Events & Programs

The annual membership dinner and elections will be held at Hoss's Steak and Seahouse on Route 322 in Meadville, Pa., June 12. Dinner will be at 6 p.m., the elections will be at 8 p.m.

The cabooses will begin on Memorial Day weekend, Sunday May 25 and Monday May 26, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Then the cabooses will be open only on Sundays from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., or by special appointment.

The One-Day Museum at Titusville, Pa. will be held at the Perry Street station, June 21, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The FCVRRHS will have a table at the event.

Come down and say hello.

The annual Railroad Roundhouse will be held June 28 at the Downtown Meadville Mall, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Dennis Mead asked if anybody knew if the current Crawford County Historical Society program schedule is up to date.

Old Business - Public Relations/Education

Webmaster Jonathan Clark has updated the organization's website. The new edition of the "Valley Express" newsletter has been sent to numerous recipients in pdf format. It is to be transferred to the website by Jonathan. Hard copies are available at the cabooses, One-Day Museum, and Railroad Roundhouse.

Old Business - Membership

Membership dues should be in by June 30, 2008.

Dan Higham was acknowledged with appreciation for permitting the organization to meet in the conference room of the U.S. Bronze Foundry & Machine, Inc.

It is with deep regret to announce the passing of member John C. Spear, age 93, of Fullerton, California. Mr. Spear passed on May 7, 2008. He had been living the past sixteen years at a retirement community. Ed Cronin noted he had won an Alphonso Fugagli print and donated it to the

FCVRRHS.

Old Business - Museum

Several design and layout options were discussed, including the placement of B&LE #643, if acquired. Nate Clark proposed using an old railroad bridge to display the #643, with a glass enclosure and doors on both ends. It would save money on a new structure, and make it look more at home. There were several suggestions of where to run the #643, including running the length of the property line. Larry Smith suggested raising the level of the entire display.

The aforementioned civil engineering study will include the placement of the machines and elevations for flood zone planning.

New Business - Budget/Finance

A grant from the Harold Heist Foundation is due on June 30. Discussions were of what to do with the money. Some of the options were to use it on the concrete at the site, paint, and others. But the primary topic was painting the interior of the cabooses. Ed Cronin suggested to form a budget with costs. Jack Sheets was assigned the task of researching the costs and reporting to Ed.

New Business - Property/Equipment

Jack Sheets said the city of

Meadville would like the Meadville Redevelopment Authority to scrape and paint the machines, probably using the inmates that are doing several tasks in the community.

The Economic (Progress) Alliance (of Crawford County) owns the machines and will donate them to the museum if they are sandblasted and painted.

All construction and efforts to acquire electrical service is on hold until the civil engineering study is complete.

New signs are being installed in the vicinity of the caboose along the arterial highway. It has yet to be determined if there will be a line-of-sight problem.

A letter was received from Gayle Unger Kelley regarding a steam whistle that is in her possession. She said it was from the "Bessemer" Meadville roundhouse. (Bessemer didn't have a roundhouse in Meadville.). She wants to sell it. It is not marked and is actually a factory whistle.

Larry Smith donated several boxes of model railroad magazines for selling to patrons.

Jim Cray expressed his desire to donate a signal head to the organization to get it out of his yard. A post will be needed to mount the head, which may be acquired from the Western New York and Pennsylvania Railroad.

New Business –Special Events and Programs

The turnout at the caboose for National Train Day on May 10 was only five visitors.

Dennis Mead conducted a tour of the caboose on April 30 for a scout troop.

Dennis will be speaking at a Lake Shore Railway Historical Society program on behalf of the FCVRRHS at the museum in North East, Pa., at 8 p.m., on May 17.

A local radio station will be doing a remote at the caboose on Sunday July 13, 2008 during the tour of the caboose. The hours they will be covering it is from 12 noon to 2 p.m. The caboose will be open to 4 p.m.

The caboose tour schedule for the next four weeks is as follows, but may be amended:

Sunday May 25 -
Dennis Mead,

Monday May 26 -
Al Reibel, Bill McComas,
Tom Collard

Sunday June 1
Carl Timko
Bill McComas

Sunday June 8
Jack and Linda Sheets,
Bernie Hanmore

Sunday June 15
Volunteers are needed.

New Business – Membership

The next meeting will be the dinner and elections at Hoss's Steak and Seahouse, Meadville, Pa. on June 12.

The July meeting will be at the caboose, weather permitting. Bring a chair. If the weather does not cooperate, it will be at the U.S. Bronze Foundry & Machine, Inc., 18649 Brake Shoe Road, Meadville, Pa. The meeting will start at 6 p.m. at either place.

The May 15, 2008 meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m.



