



The Second Section



Minutes from the September 17, 2009 meeting

President Dennis Mead called the board and general membership meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., in the conference room of the U.S. Bronze Foundry and Machine, Inc., located at 18649 Brake Shoe Road, Meadville, PA.

Attending members were: Dennis Mead, Ed Cronin, Carl Timko, Bill McComas, Hunt Christie, Larry Johnson, Jack Sheets, Tom Collard, Al Reibel, Loyd Mitchell.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Ed Cronin reported the amount of cash on hand, less the cost of building a viewing platform for the layout. He also reported the cost of the insurance premium and the newsletter, which will be published this autumn

Ed noted the organization received a grant to be used for fencing in the display area once the S2 arrives and is placed on display.

Ed has sent notices to several members that have not renewed their memberships. One has responded, but will not renew. Nine others have not responded.

Ed asked the board members to make a donation to the society by the end of the year.

Old Business - Museum

Ed Cronin reported that the feasibility study and business plan for starting a railroad museum is currently underway. Consultants Ann Brown and Bob Good met with all of the board of directors of the various partners in the Heritage Center. It was noted that the consultants were pleased with the 84 Lumber site as a viable location. Ed noted that the city of Meadville still receives a fairly large tax revenue from the 84 Lumber property. There would be a need to find a way to lessen the tax loss for the city.

Ed said he will be meeting with educators concerning the inclusion of the Heritage Center into their school curriculum planning for grades 1 through 5. He is hoping to generate an interest among the children in these grades.

The next meeting with the consultants will be October 14 through October 16, 2009. A stakeholders' meeting will take place on October 15 between 3 and 5 p.m., at a location to be determined. It is hoped that 30 to 40 people will become involved from this meeting. After the consultants depart and review the information gathered, they will return at a later date with a final report.

Ed disclosed a likely annual budget figure for the museum. He also noted that it is likely there will only be one

employee, and that the museum will probably be open only on weekends, holidays, select dates that may coincide with special events in town.

Old Business - Property/Equipment

Caboose - Ed Cronin informed the attending members that the derailer on the caboose is unlocked.

Electrical service - Jack Sheets is to try to contact one Jackie Thompson, a representative of Penelec, by phone. He will try to convince Penelec to install electrical service at the display site.

While on the topic of electrical service, it was noted that three of the four spotlights are stored in the caboose, while the other is in Al Reibel's possession. The spotlights are to light the exterior of the caboose to aid in its security.

Boxcar - A recent visit to CN's (formerly Bessemer & Lake Erie) Albion yard found no boxcars anywhere. Dennis Mead had made mention about how a B&LE boxcar would make a better representation of the Bessemer in Meadville.

Trolley station - The Crawford County Historical Society has had the dirt piles removed from the vicinity of the trolley station in Cambridge Springs. The dirt

is from the removal of nine fuel tanks.

Old Business - Membership

Trips - Carl Timko contacted Sue Allen of Anderson Coach Lines. She suggested the organization look to schedule any trips next year. Anderson is currently involved with their fall foliage tours in New England.

Dennis Mead expressed interest in having a fall foliage trip over the WNYP this year.

Roster -As reported in the Treasurer's Report, the membership has one member that declines to renew. The organization, however, welcomes new member, Denis Manross of Lake City. Welcome aboard, Denis!

Member Bob Bingham is undergoing treatments for an illness. Anyone wishing to call, email or visit Bob should know Bob would really appreciate the thought.

New Business - Property/Equipment

#518 Project - Ed Cronin made note of a need for a project manager for the #518 project. He also noted a need for a communication coordinator.

Dennis Mead reported that the secretary has been handling some of the correspondence.

Jack Sheets says Bernie

Hanmore's friend, Randy, of RanDen has a heavy duty trailer that could haul the hood of the #518 from Jefferson, Ohio to Butler, PA. for sandblasting and repainting.

The attending members were informed that a coordinated schedule for the arrival of the crane and the truck to haul it, is required. The crane will need to lift the hood onto the truck, lift out the motor, generator, radiator fan, and other components, as well as lift the frame of the locomotive to switch out the trucks.

Ed Cronin said there is a need to know who is paying for the crane and of what percentage of the cost the organization will bear.

There is a report that an outfit out of Ashtabula, Ohio that can move a railcar on a dolly system. This would in effect move the locomotive down the highway without loading it onto a heavy duty trailer.

Nate Clark forwarded, via email, the name of the Silcott Railway Equipment of Worthington, Ohio as a source for parts for the #518. Parts needed are a horn, a bell, a control stand in the cab, and possibly other parts needed to at least cosmetically represent the ALCO S2 as it was. Dennis noted that the lighting (headlight) would need to be changed to a 110volt ac system from the 34volt dc

system currently in the #518.

The next work session is scheduled for Wednesday, September 23, 2009.

Volunteers were to meet in front of Walmart in Meadville at noon.

Some of the work needing done this session are removing bolts that keep the hood fastened down, removing electrical harnesses in the cab, and removing the bolts holding the radiator cores in, and removing bolts holding the frame for the radiator fan.

Ed Cronin noted the remaining funds for the #518 project.

Caboose - The caboose is closed for tours for the season. A tour can be scheduled, though, by an appointment.

The board and attending members agreed not to wash the caboose until after the trackwork has been completed at the display site.

Preparations still needing completed to finish the trackwork include removing the south entrance steps and adjusting the brakes.

The schedule for next season has been tabled for now, until some progress is made at the display site.

Trackwork - Tom Collard relayed a message from Carl Belke of the WNYP RR that their crew will accept the job of finishing the trackwork, for free, if they could work on it at the end of a shift, or to fill out a shift. The

alternative is to quote a price if it needed immediately. The hope is to have the trackwork done by the end of October.

New Business - Public Relations/Education

Newsletter - Any articles for submission for the next edition of "*The Valley Express*" should be in by October 15.

Raffle - The secretary noted that if a raffle of a trainset is held this year in conjunction with the display of the layout, a new license will be needed, as the current one expires in November. A trainset has been acquired for such purpose, and it is hoped it will be used to raise funds again for Toys for Tots. The organization's raffle last year raised \$200 that was donated to Toys for Tots.

New Business - Model Railroad

Tom Collard brought in an S scale Erie Railroad boxcar that will be completed for a photo in "*The Valley Express*".

Train show - There is a train show at the Shenango VFW on Sunday September 27, 2009, between 9:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. The VFW is located at 439 E. State St., Sharon, PA. The Penn-Ohio Model Railroaders club is sponsoring the show and sale.

Al Reibel mentioned that he

would see about setting up a table at the show and represent the FCVRRHS.

Layout display - A report that the Downtown Mall has an empty store across from where the layout was on display last year, indicates it may be an option for the layout this holiday season. The store was closed when John's Hallmark was closed. Tom Collard will talk to mall manager, Joe Mazzone, about using the store for the layout, if the trolley station is not ready for the layout. One stipulation is the members will need to have a key to the store, so they will not have to hunt down the mall personnel to open and close.

New Business - Membership

Next Meeting - The board and general membership meeting in October will be moved back a week to Thursday October 22, 2009. The move was necessary to avoid conflict with the stakeholders' meeting, on the 15th of October, the normal day scheduled for the FCVRRHS members. The stakeholders' meeting is part of the feasibility study and business planning of the proposed Northwestern Pennsylvania Railroad and Tooling Heritage Center.

