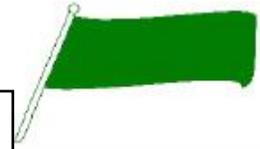


The Second Section



Minutes from the September 18, 2014 meeting

President Bernie Hanmore called the membership meeting to order at 6:37 p.m. at the Cambridge Springs trolley station, located off of U.S. Routes 6 and 19.

Members in attendance were Bernie Hanmore, Dennis Mead, Ed Cronin, Carl and Vanessa Timko, Bill McComas, Jack Sheets, Larry Johnson, Tom Stewart, John Snyder, Tom Collard, and Pete Gifford.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Ed Cronin gave his financial status of the organization, including balances, income from the scrap metal drive, expenses of the roofcoating of the baggage car and that two members have renewed their memberships.

Committee Reports Museum

The Heritage Center is continuing with the "quiet phase" of the fundraising for the museum. The focus is on acquiring a building that used to be one of the Erie Railroad's shops in Meadville.

The Cambridge Springs trolley station is now owned by the Heritage Center. Since the Crawford County Historical Society is the only legal recipient besides Penn State University of the

Townley estate funds, the funds cannot be directly signed over to the Heritage Center. If the CCHS does not want the funds, then they would revert to Penn State. The other possible candidate was the Cambridge Springs Historical Society, who could not care for the station as it would need. Other funding has been arranged in two grants for the heating and air conditioning system, which has been installed. Lights and wiring also is being installed. Also, the basement has been power washed.

Historical /Archives

Secretary Carl Timko has contacted Josh Sherretts about using the Erie Railroad files that the Crawford County Historical Society has in its possession. The French Creek Valley Railroad Historical Society would like to use them for calendars and be able to reference and use these materials.

John Snyder has an old Erie Railroad photograph of several Erie employees posing in front of a shop building. The photo has their names on the back. It is important to find photos such as these to be on record for easy access and possible use in the future.

There will not be a 2015 calendar, but members were

asked to loan their old railroad photographs for a future calendar.

The board and members discussed plans to publish a 24 page book based on the photos from the Stuart Ladner collection. These are the same photos that were on the 2013 and 2014 calendars. It is anticipated that Mike Vickey would publish the books.

Property/Equipment

The work session of August 28 was very productive. The crew tore down the fence in front of the 518, removed the sod and leveled the ground. Then a call to Keibert's Construction brought a load of 2RC gravel, after which the fence was reinstalled. At the same time, a coat of black paint was being brushed onto the cab of the 518, and the caboose ends were masked and the gray band was touched up.

A big thank you to the crew: Dennis Mead, Ed Cronin, Carl Timko, Bill McComas, Jack Sheets, John Snyder, Tom Stewart, Terry Martin, and Jason Ferguson.

While the crew was on-site, an impromptu board meeting convened. A motion to accept the bid of \$8024 by ITC to haul and lift the Bessemer and Lake Erie Railroad boxcar from North East to Meadville, was made

by Ed Cronin and seconded by Jack Sheets. The motion passed by unanimous vote. A second motion was made by Ed Cronin to approve the expenditure of \$8024 to pay for the hauling and lifting of the boxcar. This is dependent upon the pledged donation to the FCVRRHS by, at the time, an anonymous family. The motion was seconded, again by Jack Sheets. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting, motions and actions were all deemed official by surpassing the quorum limit.

Carl Belke, of the Western New York and Pennsylvania Railroad, is willing to supply materials and labor to lay the track panel in front of and up to the 518, to make room for displaying the boxcar. Tom Collard was to call Mr. Belke to verify.

A work session was scheduled for Wednesday, September 24 to install window glass in the 518. The work session didn't go as planned, as only one window was installed due to the glass needing recut.

Jack Sheets is asking members for a collective \$200 to pay for the rent of a steam jenny to clean the trucks of the 518.

Members met with the owner of the company that coated the roof of the baggage car during the August work session.

Public Relations/Education

The organization is still looking for a replacement for Bill McComas as editor of the "Valley Express". Bill has done a fantastic job putting the newsletter together. As he is still editor, he needs members' submissions for the Fall 2014 edition.

Webmaster Dianne Jones does have cancer again. She had beaten breast cancer only two years ago. However, she will continue handling the website. Members are asked to pray for her recovery.

Changes are being planned with the website. President Hanmore suggested something with more "pop". Carl Timko has made a list of possible changes. All ideas are welcome.

As of the September meeting, the organization has yet to find a train set for the raffle that traditionally benefits Toys for Tots. The raffle takes place during the Christmas layout display, which this year will be at the Cambridge Springs trolley station. The event will be promoted more than ever now, since it is in an unfamiliar location to the public.

Special Events/Programs

The Erie Lackawanna Historical Society's 2015 Fall meeting is expected to attract

50 or more members. The event will be held in Cambridge Springs, PA, utilizing the Riverside Inn and the trolley station. The organization will need to secure rooms for the guests at the Riverside Inn and local motels and hotels. The event will take place in September 2015, though no exact date has been chosen.

Train shows in the area as of the date of compilation of the "Second Section" include the Great Berea Train Show at Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds in Berea, OH on October 4th and 5th. The train show will be open from 10a.m. to 5 p.m. and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., respectively. Also, the Cleveland O-scale two-rail train show is on November 1 at Kirtland, OH; the Erie train show at Rainbow Gardens is November 2; the Christmas Train and Toy Show at the Lakeland Community College in Kirtland, OH is November 23.

Budget/Finance

The T-shirt inventory is getting low on some sizes. Adult size large has been depleted. Attempts to contact the previous supplier has failed, so a new supplier must be found.

The scrap metal drive continues. Members are asked to collect scrap metal and take it to Lincoln Metal in exchange for the cash.

Members are then asked to donate the proceeds to the FCVRRHS to help pay for current and future projects. Members who do not have an adequate vehicle to transport the scrap may call an officer or board member to make arrangements to have it hauled in.

Secretary Carl Timko asked treasurer Ed Cronin for funds to cover the cost of stamps to mail out the newsletters.

Model Railroad

The French Creek Valley Model Railroad Club is continuing with the building of three different scales of layouts at the @ the Bank shopping complex in Meadville. The TT scale is currently installing scenery. A correction on the price of the TT scale locomotive (SW9) that was mentioned in last month's "*Second Section*": the price should be \$160, not \$130 that was noted. Not much work has been done on the HO layout due to focusing on the display site. The N scale layout is receiving track work.

Tom Collard and his store, Tom's Train Terminal, has become a source of area scouts to achieve their Boy Scouts model railroad badge. Congratulations, Tom!

Membership

The last membership meeting noted that there is a

need to attract more members, especially the younger generation. Currently, there are only four junior members. Members are asked to encourage those with interest in railroads to join the FCVRRHS. The website has an application form available to download.

Next Meeting

The next membership meeting is Thursday, October 16, 2014, at 6:30 p.m., in the conference room of the U.S. Bronze Foundry and Machine, Inc., located at 18649 Brake Shoe Road, Meadville, PA.

